

EXHIBIT 11

**PUBLIC VERSION -
CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL OMITTED IN FULL**

EXHIBIT 12

**PUBLIC VERSION -
CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL OMITTED**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

RYANAIR DAC,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.) Case No.
) 1:20-CV-01191-WCB
BOOKING HOLDINGS INC.,)
BOOKING.COM B.V., KAYAK)
SOFTWARE CORPORATION,)
PRICELINE.COM LLC, and AGODA)
COMPANY PTE. LTD.,)
)
 Defendants.)
)

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO THE PROTECTIVE ORDER

Video-recorded videoconference deposition
of TIMOTHY J. O'NEIL-DUNNE, taken remotely on behalf of
the Plaintiff, beginning at 9:03 a.m. and ending at
5:24 p.m., on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, before
JOANNA B. BROWN, Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 8570,
RPR, CRR, RMR.

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14	PAGE LINE		
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 have a technical ability to distribute their products 2 through GDSs for a typical impediment. There were 3 other airlines who chose not to participate even though 4 they could do so.</p> <p>5 Q And did those airlines have content available 6 through some computer system where a travel agent could 7 use some technology to go access it?</p> <p>8 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: So pre-Internet, if you had an 10 airline who didn't have access to the GDS and there was 11 no Internet, there was only one -- there were only two 12 other possible forms of access: one was to walk into a 13 physical location, and the other one was by the phone.</p> <p>14 BY MS. GIERHART:</p> <p>15 Q All right. So I think, then, it's -- it's 16 sort of a post-Internet scenario where a travel agent 17 would use some technology to access an airline's 18 content outside of a GDS or through an agreement with 19 the airline direct?</p> <p>20 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Okay. So there's been -- 22 there's a lot of theory about did the airlines' 23 websites make the Internet very strong, or did the 24 Internet make the airlines' websites very strong? 25 I think they are symbiotic. So the emergence</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 of the Internet as a -- as a channel of distribution 2 and the emergence of airlines being able to distribute 3 their content outside of the GDS sort of occurred about 4 the same time.</p> <p>5 BY MS. GIERHART:</p> <p>6 Q Okay. All right. I think, just to wrap up 7 this Section 4, if we could actually just look at this, 8 on page 5 of your report, actually going up, there's a 9 little summary for each section. So I just want to 10 look at the summary for Section 4. Okay. So that's 11 page 5, the paragraph that starts "First."</p> <p>12 So you say "The development of modern airline 13 ticket distribution -- split between direct and 14 indirect distribution can be traced through decades of 15 history."</p> <p>16 So I think you are saying here airlines have 17 been selling flights through travel agents and -- for 18 decades. Is that, sort of, the first conclusion?</p> <p>19 A Yes. I can wax lyrically about how that 20 occurred; but, yes, that's for airline tickets. Yes, 21 there were decades of history where travel agents sold 22 tickets on behalf of the airlines.</p> <p>23 Q And that doesn't distinguish between -- well, 24 you just said selling tickets on behalf of the airline. 25 So this doesn't involve selling tickets</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 without the airlines' permission; right?</p> <p>2 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>3 THE WITNESS: That is correct.</p> <p>4 BY MS. GIERHART:</p> <p>5 Q Okay. So there's not a history for decades of 6 travel agents selling airlines' tickets without their 7 permission?</p> <p>8 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: That's not actually true. There 10 was a very robust gray market where travel agents who 11 did have the right to issue tickets distributed theirs 12 to subagents and had a wider network than their own 13 agents. There's a term used which is called 14 "consolidators" or "consolidation," and consolidators 15 would actually sell to large numbers of travel agents. 16 And the airlines actually liked it because it was a way 17 for them to sell unused or wasting inventory to a 18 broader market that wasn't necessarily fully just a 19 regular travel agency.</p> <p>20 BY MS. GIERHART:</p> <p>21 Q So it was a bit of off-market selling, but the 22 airlines kind of supported it regardless?</p> <p>23 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Some. I said some. And I want 25 to be very cautious that that -- that marketplace</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 existed. It existed far more in places like Europe and 2 Asia than it did in the U.S., but it was definitely 3 something that happened.</p> <p>4 BY MS. GIERHART:</p> <p>5 Q And your report does not make a distinction in 6 this early period of a long history of travel agents 7 selling tickets on behalf of airlines.</p> <p>8 Your report doesn't make a distinction between 9 authorized and unauthorized sales; right?</p> <p>10 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>11 THE WITNESS: What I was addressing in my 12 report -- I think I was very explicit about this -- was 13 really about the U.S. market and about the more 14 conventional, mainstream ways that airline tickets were 15 distributed. So I didn't want to go into that level of 16 detail.</p> <p>17 There are many, many different exceptions that 18 are possible in these cases. I have tried to avoid 19 doing that so that we would have a report that was only 20 25 pages as opposed to one that could be several 21 hundred pages long.</p> <p>22 BY MS. GIERHART:</p> <p>23 Q Right. Okay. But -- so the -- you are saying 24 you were focusing on the mainstream. Sort of a 25 standard protocol of the time was -- in the</p>

1 pre-Internet era was for travel agents to work
 2 through -- to sell airline tickets through approved
 3 methods, which were through GDSs, which had agreements
 4 with airlines.

5 Is that -- that's the standard procedure at
 6 that time?

7 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

8 THE WITNESS: That was the way that it
 9 actually happened. That would be a good
 10 characterization, yes.

11 BY MS. GIERHART:

12 Q Okay. Okay. So your report, sort of, focuses
 13 on the mainstream, authorized sales of airlines through
 14 travel agents?

15 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

16 THE WITNESS: With the caveat that the way
 17 that I described this was I focused on the
 18 United States market, which, as I said, is different
 19 from different countries in different jurisdictions.

20 BY MS. GIERHART:

21 Q Right. Okay. But that was the case in the
 22 U.S. market?

23 A The majority, yes. I mean, there were
 24 consolidations in the U.S. too, and they are fairly
 25 well known. Some of them still exist.

1 THE WITNESS: You, kind of, concatenated lots
 2 of things. Can you unpack that maybe a little bit?

3 BY MS. GIERHART:

4 Q Sure. I think in the -- in the -- in your
 5 opinion about screen-scraping technology having been
 6 used for decades by travel agents, the early form
 7 pre-Internet was limited to manipulating content that
 8 travel agents already had from the GDS; is that right?

9 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

10 THE WITNESS: I can answer the question this
 11 way: because the travel agents used only the GDS as
 12 their primary form of interactive system, therefore,
 13 the manipulation of screen emulation was based upon the
 14 data that was entirely controlled from the GDS down to
 15 the terminal. There was nothing between the two.

16 When you had a PC and you could emulate the
 17 screen, then the possibility started to exist because
 18 there was now an intelligence that sat at the remote
 19 end of the communication, and that was screen emulation
 20 initially, and, then, it went to screen manipulation.

21 BY MS. GIERHART:

22 Q Right. Okay. I guess I was just making the
 23 distinction, it didn't involve yet going out and
 24 getting content from somewhere else?

25 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

1 Q I'm sorry. A consolidator?
 2 A Sorry. These -- these companies who sell
 3 tickets through different forms rather than the
 4 conventional form, there are a number of these forms
 5 that now exist for different reasons. There has always
 6 been alternative forms, and -- but when we are talking
 7 about, as I put in the report, the development of the
 8 modern airline ticket system, it was conventionally
 9 seen as being airline talked to GDS, talked to travel
 10 agent, and, then, customers came in and bought tickets
 11 from the travel agent. That was the indirect form of
 12 distribution.

13 Q Okay. Okay. And, then, this, sort of, second
 14 part of this paragraph is also, then, talking about
 15 what we were just talking about, I think. With direct
 16 distribution and indirect distribution, they have
 17 existed for at least a half a century with the latter
 18 using screen emulation and screen-scraping technology
 19 for decades.

20 So, the second point, we are talking about,
 21 sort of, the advent of screen-scraping technology.
 22 This was an early form where it was manipulation of
 23 content that the travel agents already had access to
 24 through their relationship with the GDSs; right?

25 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

1 THE WITNESS: I'll disagree with that because
 2 the ability to bring other forms of information, again,
 3 pre-Internet was there were physical sources of
 4 information that existed. So someone might, for
 5 example --

6 Let me try and use an example for this. I
 7 might say that, here in this travel agency, I don't
 8 want you to use United Airlines, and that was a
 9 directive from the management of the travel agency even
 10 though the travel agency was perfectly able to do that.

11 It was possible through manipulating the
 12 screen to eliminate United Airlines out of the
 13 displays. That's a possibility. That's a good
 14 scenario to illustrate how manipulation of the data
 15 that was coming to and from could actually change what
 16 was happening at the agents' workstation.

17 BY MS. GIERHART:

18 Q Right. I understand that as a removal of
 19 content. I just meant obtaining raw data. Where the
 20 content comes from was from the GDS. That's all I
 21 meant. These early, you know, stages of
 22 screen-scraping technology didn't yet involve -- and I
 23 think we said because of the example with Russia, or
 24 you only sell by phone by GDS. By going in person,
 25 there was -- there just wasn't yet a way for travel

<p>1 agents to get content before the Internet if it 2 didn't --</p> <p>3 A Actually, there was.</p> <p>4 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: Sorry.</p> <p>6 Actually, there was. There's a service on 7 which the GDSs are based, which is called the "OAG." 8 The OAG stands for the "Official Airlines Guide." And 9 the OAG publishes schedules for most airlines whether 10 they participate or not. Therefore, I could have 11 access -- and I, in fact, remember doing this -- where 12 you could bring in the information on dial-up to the 13 OAG source, and you could see that there was, in fact, 14 other airlines who were operating at that particular 15 moment on a particular route, who might not be 16 participating inside a GDS.</p> <p>17 And, therefore, you would now be able to say 18 "Ah, I see that that can happen. How do I get access 19 to that" -- "How can I make a booking?"</p> <p>20 Well, it will say -- you won't know that from 21 the OAG because the OAG only published schedule data. 22 It didn't publish any inventory data.</p> <p>23 And, therefore, I can go and say "Ah. But I 24 can see how this flight exists. Let me see how I can 25 get access to it, probably by the phone."</p>	<p>1 MS. GIERHART: Okay.</p> <p>2 THE WITNESS: In fact, there are ways to 3 manipulate the GDS to actually show what is known as 4 schedule data only -- sorry -- schedule data only, 5 which is possible if you know how to manipulate the 6 GDS.</p> <p>7 BY MS. GIERHART:</p> <p>8 Q So it would be the equivalent, say, of getting 9 flight itinerary information or route information but 10 not -- there was no ability, you know, to book flights 11 or issue tickets. Then, you said, you'd have to call 12 or, you know --</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q -- use some other method?</p> <p>15 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>16 THE WITNESS: That's a good way to describe 17 it.</p> <p>18 MS. GIERHART: Okay.</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: But I just would caution you 20 about the, no, not possible because there was always 21 somebody somewhere in some garage who was tinkering and 22 trying to do things. So I would just say it was 23 definitely not mainstream. Mainstream was the GDS 24 activity.</p> <p>25 BY MS. GIERHART:</p>
<p>1 Q Right. Right. Okay. All right. I'll start 2 going just a little bit into Section 5, and, then, we 3 can take a break. Okay.</p> <p>4 So Section 5 is now -- so, now, we are moving 5 into the "MODERN METHODS FOR BOOKING CONSUMER TRAVEL." 6 It starts on page 9 of your report.</p> <p>7 And, yeah, actually, just to clarify because, 8 when I was reading this, I just wanted to make sure, 9 this first paragraph under -- under Section 5 at the 10 very top of the page, it says -- this section begins by 11 discussing, sort of, direct and indirect distribution, 12 which I see, in Section 5, it says -- it then discusses 13 how an airline's business model will drive an airline's 14 decision to encourage and pursue a particular mode of 15 distribution. I think that's Section 6.</p> <p>16 Can you confirm if that's what you meant?</p> <p>17 A Let me have a quick look. Because it is a 18 comparison to -- when I get into Section 6, I go more 19 into the details, which is the airline distribution 20 preference. And, then, I break that out into the 21 full-service and low-cost carriers. So I try to focus 22 Section 5 on probably the context of indirect 23 distribution and then into the detail because airlines 24 were more important for the context of this report is 25 why I created the whole extra section in 6.</p>	<p>1 Q Okay. So in this -- in this -- all right. 2 So 5.1, we are talking about direct distribution, and 3 you note in here -- I'm trying to find the exact 4 wording. All right. The second sentence, "This 5 channel gives airlines the most control over their 6 pricing and marketing, and it allows them to collect 7 customer data that can be used to improve their loyalty 8 programs and targeted marketing campaigns."</p> <p>9 Why -- we talked about this a little before, 10 but why might an airline want to control their pricing 11 and marketing?</p> <p>12 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: For many different reasons. 14 Targeting is, as I've put in here, targeting of 15 products and services and marketing.</p> <p>16 The loyalty issue is a big one because, prior 17 to the Internet, loyalty was not as precise a science 18 as it is today. So the target -- the control is 19 something that the airlines wish to exert because, if 20 they feel that they can keep a captive customer, they 21 feel that they can leverage that customer to become 22 more valuable to them as a supplier.</p> <p>23 BY MS. GIERHART:</p> <p>24 Q Why might an airline want to collect customer 25 data?</p>

1 talking about OTAs being beneficial for the purpose of
 2 comparing flight information, not necessarily booking?
 3 But -- so when you are talking about
 4 information-sharing, aggregation, is that all just
 5 related to comparing flights?

6 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

7 THE WITNESS: In general, yes, but it also
 8 applies to other forms of travel information like
 9 hotels.

10 BY MS. GIERHART:

11 Q Okay. But it's not referring to a benefit to
 12 the customer of booking flights through an OTA; right?

13 A This section is just dealing with the
 14 information-sharing and aggregation, those two things
 15 brought together.

16 Q Okay. So -- okay. So you -- I just want to
 17 clarify and make sure. So the opinion does not
 18 indicate any reason why booking a flight on an OTA is
 19 preferable to booking a flight through an airline?

20 A If you look at the penultimate paragraph under
 21 7.2 on page 15, "From a consumer (i.e., traveler)
 22 perspective, OTAs can provide a powerful
 23 information-gathering and presentation tool, helping
 24 consumers by compiling and comparing different flight
 25 itinerary and fare information," also known as offers.

1 out -- that's why I prefer to use that term -- which is
 2 the process of -- it's automating the process of
 3 accessing a web service and recording or
 4 scraping/pausing the information displayed on the
 5 screen.

6 So, when we are looking at the website, I'm
 7 looking at the data as opposed to all of the different
 8 pixels.

9 Q Okay. It seems limited to visual data that
 10 you'd see on the website, but, then, you scrape or
 11 pull; is that correct?

12 A Yeah. It's --

13 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

14 THE WITNESS: Sorry. It's the data as opposed
 15 to whether it's green screen, green type, white on
 16 green, or yellow on black. Yes. It's related to the
 17 data that's in there rather than just the pixels.

18 BY MS. GIERHART:

19 Q Okay. And in relation to OTAs and airlines
 20 referring to screen scraping here, present day, would
 21 refer to pulling light itineraries and routes, maybe
 22 ancillary options, pulling all of that data?

23 That's all screen scraping; right?

24 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

25 THE WITNESS: So screen scraping this, and as

1 So that isn't talking about booking. This
 2 particular section does not refer to booking. That is
 3 correct.

4 Q Okay. Okay. And, then, going to the next
 5 section regarding screen scraping as an information
 6 aggregation tool, so now we get to the question of how
 7 do you define "screen scraping" as used in this report?

8 A Right. So I tried to come up with a succinct
 9 element here. So screen scraping -- I actually prefer
 10 the term "screen pausing" because, if you think about a
 11 screen, going back to our emulation story, when we were
 12 dealing with emulation, we were only dealing with
 13 characters/text that was on the screen.

14 When you move to a PC in today's highly dense
 15 pixel 4K TV screen and 4K computer screen, 104- --
 16 1080P or whatever this is, you could be looking at the
 17 entire screen and say "Well, am I looking at just the
 18 screen with every pixel, every color, or whatever; or
 19 am I looking at the information?"

20 So screen scraping could encompass the whole
 21 of that screen including the bits down at the bottom.
 22 I just see it on my screen. I've got a weather app.
 23 I'm not going to use that because that's not really
 24 relevant to us.

25 Screen pausing is taking data that is relevant

1 I put in here, the process extracts data from a
 2 computer screen by reading the pixels, starting at that
 3 level, on the screen and converting those into the --
 4 and getting rid of the unnecessary stuff into text or
 5 other data formats that can then be used.

6 So, in this particular case, you described a
 7 series of elements that one can find on an airline
 8 website such as flight information, times, or whatever
 9 it might be and pulling that into and then making that
 10 available.

11 BY MS. GIERHART:

12 Q Okay. And would you call it something
 13 different, the process of -- of OTAs actually booking
 14 the flights?

15 Connecting to the API and booking a flight, is
 16 that called -- that's not screen scraping, but that's
 17 something else?

18 That's booking a flight; is that accurate?

19 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

20 THE WITNESS: So consider that you -- we are
 21 doing two different things here. So the first thing,
 22 screen scraping, per se, is just grabbing the data,
 23 bringing it into an area that makes it usable. That's
 24 screen scraping.

25 When you are doing something else like you are

1 manipulating the data or doing something with it as I
 2 describe in some of the elements below, then that's
 3 different. Then I'm now processing the information in
 4 the same way that I would if I was a human on the
 5 machine.

6 BY MS. GIERHART:

7 Q Well, there's processing information, and,
 8 then, there's also -- or there's also connecting to an
 9 API to book a flight.

10 Would you consider that part of the
 11 screen-scraping process or something else separate?

12 MR. KASNER: Objection to the form.
 13 Testifying. Foundation.

14 THE WITNESS: So I think what I've described
 15 is you need to get a hold of information before you can
 16 do something with it. Once I've got the information
 17 into a work -- let's call it a work area -- then I can
 18 do something with that data.

19 So, if I'm going to use it and redisplay it,
 20 that's an action. Then the screen-scraping effort is
 21 done. I haven't manipulated the data, or I might have
 22 manipulated the data and put it somewhere, but I'm not
 23 interacting with the place where I got the data.

24 MS. GIERHART: Okay. I think I understand.

25 THE WITNESS: See, an API -- when you describe

1 an API, an API is essentially -- the key term is
 2 the "I." That's the interface. So an application
 3 programming interface means it's bidirectional. So I
 4 can get stuff, and I can put stuff.

5 When I'm screen scraping, screen pausing, I'm
 6 grabbing the data. I'm only doing one of those
 7 functions, whereas, an API, you have to do both.

8 BY MS. GIERHART:

9 Q Right. Okay. And so I think -- I just wanted
 10 that understanding going into, then, the next part of
 11 the report. For example, it talks about screen
 12 scraping offers several key benefits. So I just wanted
 13 to understand that when you are saying screen scraping
 14 offers benefits, we are talking about going and pulling
 15 data from airlines and displaying -- well, maybe not
 16 even displaying it. That might be a Step 2.

17 But the act of pulling data from an airline's
 18 website is what you are talking about when you -- when
 19 you say "Screen scraping offers several key benefits";
 20 is that right?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Okay.

23 A In fact, if I can, sort of, look at the title
 24 of 7.2.1, which is screen scraping as an information
 25 aggregation tool --

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A -- grabbing the information from different
 3 sources using screen scraping as one of the techniques,
 4 that's what I'm trying to get across.

5 Q Okay. You go through the key benefits.

6 Did you consider the downsides of scraping in
 7 forming your opinion?

8 A Yes.

9 MR. KASNER: Objection to the form.

10 Foundation.

11 BY MS. GIERHART:

12 Q Okay. What downsides did you consider?

13 A There's many different downsides -- two
 14 potential downsides. Whether or not those downsides
 15 are particularly important or not depends on the use.
 16 So I think it sort of depends. The question, I think,
 17 overall is to consider the benefits in total as
 18 aggregate -- sorry -- not aggregate but unbalanced.

19 Is screen scraping a useful capability to
 20 bring information in that can then be manipulated by
 21 the human or by a machine?

22 Screen scraping is a very common tool for
 23 doing that, and I described that.

24 But, yes, I did consider alternatives, which
 25 is not just there are downsides to it, which can be

1 varied.

2 Q Okay. I think while -- I'm going to go to
 3 Exhibit -- the next exhibit, which is your article
 4 referenced in Footnote 14, the second one, the Han and
 5 Anderson article --

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q -- which is going to be Exhibit 129.
 8 (Deposition Exhibit 129 was electronically
 9 received and marked for identification.)

10 BY MS. GIERHART:

11 Q Okay. Do you see that?

12 A I'm there. Where would you like me to go?

13 Q Okay. Can you go to page 102 of the article.

14 A Well, this was -- hold on a second because the
 15 way it's coming up is I've only got to page 16.

16 Q Oh, sorry. It's page 14 of 16.

17 A Okay.

18 Q It says 102 at the top.

19 A Oh, I see. Yes. Understood.

20 Q Okay. So this page of the article talks about
 21 "Ethical Concerns."

22 Do you see that?

23 A I do.

24 Q Actually, sorry to make you jump. I should
 25 just go to the title of the article so we know -- have

1 some context. So the article is entitled "Web Scraping
 2 for Hospitality Research: Overview, Opportunities, and
 3 Implications." So, in that context, we are talking
 4 about web scraping and ethical concerns related to it.
 5

6 Do you remember reading this when you were
 7 writing your report?

8 A Yes. And -- I do.

9 Q Okay. Do you see, at the bottom of the first
 10 paragraph there in that section, it says: "However,
 11 web scraping information that is accessible exclusively
 12 to the members and requires logging in is illegal, as
 13 this behavior explicitly violates the terms of
 14 service"?

15 A Hold on a second. I'm sorry. I can't find
 16 that. I remember the issue. I just can't see it.
 17 Where is it? We are on the same page?

18 Q It's in the middle of the page on the
 19 left-hand --

20 A Oh, yeah, I see it. So -- yes. "However, web
 21 scraping information that is accessible exclusively,"
 22 yes, I see it there.

23 Q Do you agree with this?

24 A So I went to look at the original
 25 Supreme Court ruling. My interpretation of it -- see,
 I'm not a lawyer -- said that, in general, it's --

1 there is legalized screen scraping; right?

2 So the question of this particular question --
 3 this particular issue about whether this behavior
 4 violates the terms of service or not, I think, is an
 5 interpretation that these guys who wrote the article
 6 had. And since web scraping -- screen scraping is such
 7 a common behavior, if this was the case, I think there
 8 would be a lot more cases where this behavior was
 9 deemed to be illegal because this is not the only place
 10 that does it. Web scraping occurs in many other
 11 industries, and I think I cite other articles where it
 12 takes place. Travel just happens to be one of them
 13 because --

14 Q I -- I was just going to say I think the
 15 distinction here is just mentioning scraping where
 16 there's a login and violating the terms of service.

17 So I'm just wondering if that's a
 18 determination that you considered or not in writing
 19 your report.

20 MR. KASNER: Objection to the form and
 21 testifying.

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, I did.

23 BY MS. GIERHART:

24 Q Okay. What did you consider about that?

25 A I considered several things in here, one of

1 which was whether or not it's required. So I looked at
 2 actually going in to Ryanair and seeing what Ryanair
 3 did on its website. And, in fact, I show -- at the
 4 back of my report, there are some sample screens that
 5 show that I went in. And, with my assistant, we
 6 actually looked at two scenarios where we went in using
 7 Ryanair direct and where we went in using Booking.com
 8 to see if there was really a difference between the
 9 two.

10 Q A difference in what?

11 A In how we got to the data and whether the
 12 customer was impacted at the end of that.

13 Q Okay. And when you refer to getting the data,
 14 so we are talking about anything leading up to booking
 15 the ticket but not including booking the ticket?

16 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

17 THE WITNESS: That is correct.

18 BY MS. GIERHART:

19 Q Okay. Actually, did your report take an
 20 opinion at all regarding anything at the moment of
 21 booking a ticket or after booking the ticket?

22 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

23 THE WITNESS: I think we described what
 24 happens in the screenshots to show that we actually
 25 went through that, and we talk about myRyanair as part

1 of the -- it's in the report.

2 BY MS. GIERHART:

3 Q Okay. I guess I didn't phrase it very well.
 4 I guess, just generally, your report, when it talks
 5 about benefits of screen scraping or aggregating data,
 6 OTAs being able to show different flights, that's
 7 really all talking about the search process leading up
 8 to but not including booking a ticket; is that right?

9 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

10 THE WITNESS: Most of the piece is concerned
 11 with web scraping, which is grabbing information.
 12 Remember, that's a one-way kind of way to look at it.
 13 That's pulling the information in. That's not
 14 interacting with it out.

15 BY MS. GIERHART:

16 Q Okay. Okay. All right. So I just want to
 17 look at another -- on the same page, but if you move to
 18 the right column, it's about five lines down. The
 19 author is saying: "A common ethical concern regarding
 20 web scraping is related to the problem of sending too
 21 many requests to the host over a short span of time"
 22 and that [as read] "A typical web scraper involves
 23 querying a website repeatedly. If overused, the
 24 practice can prevent others from accessing the
 25 website."

1 Are you familiar with this practice?
 2 A I am very familiar with this practice.
 3 Q Okay. And what -- how are you familiar with
 4 it?
 5 A The behavior of lots of requests coming in is
 6 a common challenge that a website has to deal with.
 7 So, for whatever reason, floods of requests come into a
 8 website, and they can be driven by a wide range of
 9 different reasons. It could be I'm running a
 10 promotion, which could stimulate traffic. It could be
 11 that there is something known as a DDOS, a
 12 denial-of-service attack. It could be that somebody is
 13 trying to scrape my site if I'm the site itself.
 14 So having been on the side of someone who has
 15 been the target of scraping, you build tools to support
 16 and ensure that you don't have it, and you hope that
 17 whoever is on the other end, who is intending to scrape
 18 you, is behaving ethically -- sorry. Ethically is a
 19 judgment decision -- is behaving well so that you don't
 20 actually do things like that to prevent a customer from
 21 coming in. I'm familiar with this practice.
 22 Q Is it a known, I guess, harm to airlines'
 23 websites --
 24 Is web scraping known to harm airlines'
 25 websites?

1 A Yes. And my experience definitely points me
 2 in that direction. I've been -- I've been at this -- a
 3 victim, if you like, of a website I was responsible
 4 for, receiving lots and lots of requests from both
 5 scrapers and from bad actors.
 6 Q Which air -- which website was that?
 7 A I believe I alluded to this earlier when we
 8 were running the earlier lines, and we had a portion of
 9 the website on each one of seven airlines. So our
 10 particular section was the one getting hammered.
 11 Q Sorry. Was this -- I missed it.
 12 Was this Flair Airlines or with a different --
 13 A No. And one of the things in my CV, it talks
 14 about a company called Air -- excuse me -- Air Black
 15 Box, and Air Black Box was the technology provider to a
 16 series of airlines. There were seven of them in all.
 17 And we ran a portion of the website that created a
 18 particular function, and we ran that function for each
 19 one of the airlines. So we didn't just have to deal
 20 with one airline's website. We actually dealt with
 21 seven and an eighth, which was our own, which was
 22 ValueAirlines.com. So we were very familiar with these
 23 types of behavior.
 24 Q Is there a reason why you didn't include these
 25 disadvantages in your report and weigh them and then

1 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.
 2 THE WITNESS: It's known to be capable to harm
 3 airlines' websites. I chuckle at this because, in the
 4 early days of the Web, it was a real problem. Now we
 5 have tools which identify this type of request, and if
 6 you are a well-managed website, you can figure out ways
 7 to eliminate that so that you don't have to deal with
 8 it whether these unnecessary requests are coming in.
 9 So you can monitor it. You can determine it. Those
 10 tools exist and are well deployed by every competent
 11 website owner.
 12 BY MS. GIERHART:
 13 Q Okay. Would you agree there's some expense in
 14 developing those tools and constantly fighting scraping
 15 activities?
 16 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.
 17 THE WITNESS: I have more stories I can tell
 18 you about having to do it, and most, if not all,
 19 website owners, whether it's airline or otherwise,
 20 should expect this behavior. And most of the website
 21 tools now give you a way to handle it, and it's
 22 cost-effective.
 23 BY MS. GIERHART:
 24 Q And did you consider these downsides when
 25 forming your opinion in this report?

1 ultimately conclude that, you know, one outweighs the
 2 other? because they are just absent from the report.
 3 MR. KASNER: Object to the form. Testifying.
 4 THE WITNESS: I felt that the best way to talk
 5 about this was to have other people describe it. I've
 6 got -- as I said, I've got personal experience of doing
 7 this. From this experience and my understanding of how
 8 airlines work, it's standard practice that you expect
 9 this type of behavior to occur. So I didn't think it
 10 was necessary to go beyond that because you have an
 11 article such as this which describes those types of
 12 conditions.
 13 BY MS. GIERHART:
 14 Q Right. I mean, you just have to do a lot of
 15 digging to go find it, and there's no indication in
 16 your report that you are going to --
 17 You didn't say "See disadvantages in
 18 Footnote 14." It just says "screen scraping is a
 19 process of accessing a web service. See Footnote 14."
 20 MR. KASNER: Objection to the form.
 21 Argumentative.
 22 THE WITNESS: I think the purpose of quoting
 23 this article as I've tried to do, in other words, is
 24 there is a lot of information available to explain to a
 25 user -- I'm sorry -- a reader that these issues do

1 exist. I hoped that by quoting esteemed journals like
 2 this particular one of the value that that brought.
 3 Cornell Hospitality School is very well known, and this
 4 publication is pretty authoritative; right?

5 I don't have to agree with everything, but
 6 it's a good layout of exactly what happens. I mean,
 7 they are talking mostly about hospitality sites, but it
 8 does apply to airline sites. And I felt this was a
 9 good way to illustrate the challenge by quoting
 10 something from an authoritative journal.

11 MR. KASNER: Cindy, at the end of this line of
 12 questioning, can we take a break?

13 MS. GIERHART: I think we can do a quick break
 14 now and then come back. Another ten minutes?

15 MR. KASNER: Okay.

16 THE WITNESS: Okay.

17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off the record at
 18 3:52 p.m.

19 (Off the record.)

20 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the beginning of
 21 Media File No. 6. We are back on the record at
 22 4:02 p.m.

23 BY MS. GIERHART:

24 Q Okay. So we were just talking about -- in the
 25 report, you mention the benefits of screen scraping,

1 and you indicated that you also considered the
 2 disadvantages of screen scraping. I want to come back
 3 to that for a second, if we can switch gears, and I
 4 wanted to look at some of your blog posts of yours.

5 So I can share -- this is going to be
 6 Exhibit 130. You might have to zoom in a little bit.
 7 (Deposition Exhibit 130 was electronically
 8 received and marked for identification.)

9 BY MS. GIERHART:

10 Q First, just out of curiosity, I notice your
 11 blog is called -- and your Twitter handle is
 12 Professor Sabena. Where did that come from?

13 A So I tend to have a somewhat professorial way
 14 that I speak to people in situations. So my nickname
 15 was "Professor." And when I was trying to come up with
 16 a handle, I wanted to have the antithesis of something
 17 that might appeal to people who were aviation, in other
 18 words, AV geeks and people who knew about the airlines,
 19 and Sabena was probably the world's worst airline. In
 20 fact, its acronym stands for "such a bloody experience,
 21 never again." So Professor Sabena is my nickname, my
 22 nom de plume, as it were. This -- I see this is from
 23 what I wrote in 2008.

24 Q Yes, it is from a while ago, but it is talking
 25 about "Ryanair clamps down on Screen Scrapers." So it

1 still seems relevant surprisingly to this day.

2 MR. KASNER: Objection to the form.

3 Testifying.

4 BY MS. GIERHART:

5 Q Do you remember this article -- or this blog
 6 post?

7 A I remember writing it. I don't remember a lot
 8 of the detail. So there's a lot in here.

9 Q Okay. Well, first, it starts off saying
 10 Ryanair is going after screen scrapers. So the second
 11 paragraph there says "So it is not surprising that
 12 occasionally they go after intermediaries who are
 13 re-selling the Ryanair product."

14 So I guess, first, the question is just, it
 15 was known in the industry since at least 2008 that
 16 Ryanair didn't want screen scrapers on their website;
 17 is that right?

18 MR. KASNER: Objection to the form.

19 And if you need a second to read the article,
 20 please do.

21 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Let me read the whole
 22 article.

23 MS. GIERHART: Yeah. Just let me know when
 24 you are done.

25 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Yeah, I remember writing

1 this. I'm finished.

2 BY MS. GIERHART:

3 Q Okay. So, to start, it seemed, in the
 4 industry, it was known that Ryanair did not approve of
 5 screen scrapers; is that right?

6 MR. KASNER: Objection to the form.

7 THE WITNESS: Sorry. It's been well known for
 8 a long time that Ryanair does not like screen scrapers,
 9 and it is well known that other airlines don't like
 10 screen scraping.

11 BY MS. GIERHART:

12 Q Okay. And why would they not like screen
 13 scraping?

14 A So in this article, which, remember, is very
 15 old -- it is 15 years old. That's a lifetime, maybe
 16 generations inside the travel industry, inside the Web
 17 for sure. So, at the time, this was something that
 18 was, I think, more of a challenge. It was still a
 19 fairly new phenomenon at the time about screen
 20 scraping. So screen scraping was not -- was fairly
 21 novel at this time. I think that's the best way you
 22 can describe it.

23 Q Okay. And as far as why -- why would airlines
 24 at this time not like screen scraping?

25 A I actually put in here that there was actually

1 some risk. Where is the bit in here? I read that. It
 2 says -- if you go to the paragraph, it says "I have an
 3 issue with the use of Screen Scraping" --

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A Right? -- "and have never been a huge fan
 6 despite the value that can be derived"; right?

7 [As read] "The core root of the problem is
 8 that the backend systems are really not designed to
 9 cope with these types of searches and therefore it
 10 creates a resource issue which can ultimately cost
 11 money. It is fair therefore for a scraper to" --
 12 sorry. "Is it fair therefore for a scraper to make
 13 money out of somebody else's resources?"

14 So I asked that question, a rhetorical
 15 question, and I don't answer it. I just pose it as a
 16 question.

17 What is interesting is, at the time, any form
 18 of screen scraping -- remember, this is long before big
 19 DDS attacks had become prevalent. So it was just a
 20 resource issue because there wasn't the tools of
 21 sophistication.

22 Now, I think that it is completely different,
 23 and this is normal behavior to expect, screen scrapers
 24 or something particularly in travel sites to come and
 25 hit you. So the tools have been developed. So I don't

1 think that statement is true anymore.

2 Q So it's your belief that screen scraping no
 3 longer causes harm to an airline's website?

4 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

5 THE WITNESS: I'm not saying that. I'm saying
 6 that it is not as much of an issue as it was when I
 7 wrote this article.

8 BY MS. GIERHART:

9 Q Okay. And what is that based on?

10 Have you lately worked with airlines to combat
 11 screen scraping?

12 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

13 THE WITNESS: I would characterize it in a
 14 slightly different way, is that when I last had to deal
 15 with it in my own personal experience and in my
 16 discussions with airlines who now have to deal with the
 17 problem on their websites and other travel websites
 18 because it's not just airlines who get screen-scraped,
 19 it is also -- sorry -- OTAs who get it. In fact, I
 20 talk there about one website called "Trip.com."

21 At the time, Trip.com was owned by somebody
 22 else, and they were a bad actor. But, now, it's owned
 23 by Ctrip. It's become a good actor in that they're
 24 using Trip.com in a good way.

25 So I think it's part of the standard behavior

1 inside the industry that you expect that people will
 2 use some form of screen-scraping tool, and therefore, I
 3 think it's kind of a nonissue these days. Whereas
 4 before, when I wrote this article 15 years ago, it
 5 absolutely was a big issue.

6 BY MS. GIERHART:

7 Q You were starting to say -- you were comparing
 8 from when you had to deal with it with conversations
 9 you are having with people today.

10 When did you have to deal with it?

11 A Oh, sorry. This was in the 2017, '18, and
 12 '19.

13 Q And it was a big problem then?

14 A No. It was -- it was conquered, if you like,
 15 from that time. So seven years after -- 2017. Seven
 16 years after this article, by then, I had started
 17 Air Black Box. This was from 2010. I started
 18 Air Black Box in 2012, and we had to deal with it. And
 19 it was one of the first questions I asked of my web
 20 team.

21 And I said, "Okay, how do we defend against
 22 this? How do we defend against massive amounts of data
 23 requests? How do we synthesize those data requests?
 24 How do we stop bad actors from entering?"

25 And those, by then, even in 2012, have become

1 a lot more normal because this issue was raised at this
 2 time and the people had started to deal with it. By
 3 the time we were in public in 2016 with Air Black Box
 4 and its customers, it was an absolute normal situation,
 5 and we were dealing with this as we were dealing with
 6 other things like DDOS attacks.

7 Q And do you think you were getting
 8 screen-scraped at the same level that airlines like
 9 Ryanair are?

10 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

11 THE WITNESS: Can you give me perhaps a better
 12 definition of "level."

13 BY MS. GIERHART:

14 Q Do you think that the volume of screen
 15 scraping that your company received would be equivalent
 16 to the volume of screen scraping that Ryanair receives?

17 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

18 THE WITNESS: Ryanair was a massively much
 19 larger airline. It's one of the top airlines on the
 20 Web anyway. So we were nothing like that. We were
 21 confined to a very specific area in Asia Pacific. So,
 22 the total volume, I would say no; but in comparison to
 23 what I understand Ryanair is getting, I don't have any
 24 data on that subject. I tried to find some, but I
 25 can't find any. I would say, probably, it was far more

1 impactful on us than it was on Ryanair.
 2 BY MS. GIERHART:

3 Q Even though it would be a much smaller volume?

4 A Yes. Because let's say we got a thousand
 5 bookings a day and we had 10,000 hits that came from
 6 screen scrapers, that would translate into -- Ryanair
 7 into literally millions of hits in comparison.

8 Q And so --

9 A We got a lot, and in one particular case, I
 10 can recall most of the traffic coming in was from
 11 people attempting to scrape, and they were actually a
 12 malicious actor in the specific case that I'm talking
 13 about because they were trying to create a copy of our
 14 website so that they could create a fake website.

15 So the detailed knowledge was not just that
 16 the actor was doing something bad if we count screen
 17 scraping as bad; but they had a malicious intention of
 18 doing that not to the benefit of our customers but
 19 diverting customers to their website so they could
 20 steal from consumers. That's what --

21 Q Okay.

22 A -- (inaudible) OTAs do.

23 Q But -- so you don't know the level of attacks
 24 that Ryanair has to deal with in the last five years or
 25 even today; right?

1 document. I recall that it actually talks about what
 2 Ryanair provisions as tools, and it has a cost factor
 3 associated with it. And, to me, in my professional
 4 opinion, the size of the business that Ryanair does and
 5 the number of bookings and web searches that they
 6 receive, that seemed to be quite normal.

7 BY MS. GIERHART:

8 Q Is it a widely held belief in the industry
 9 that screen scraping just isn't a problem anymore?

10 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

11 THE WITNESS: Thinking about that, obviously,
 12 I can't speak for everybody nor the industry as a
 13 whole, but I would say that screen scraping is normal
 14 behavior inside the travel industry, and people accept
 15 it and handle it.

16 BY MS. GIERHART:

17 Q Right. But none of that says that it isn't a
 18 problem. Do you agree that there is a difference?

19 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

20 Argumentative.

21 THE WITNESS: I think, if we were to ask a
 22 slightly different question, "Do people accept that
 23 DDOS attacks are normal?" we would say the industry
 24 expects it. So we deal with it. I think the same
 25 applies to screen scraping. Although they are very

1 MR. KASNER: Object to the form. Foundation.

2 THE WITNESS: I do not have specific knowledge
 3 of that, no.

4 BY MS. GIERHART:

5 Q Okay. So you can't really know if the problem
 6 is solved for Ryanair, can you?

7 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

8 THE WITNESS: I believe there is a document --

9 I don't recall which one -- which talks about what
 10 Ryanair does to combat the issue. I think they even
 11 quote it in one of the responses. They quoted the
 12 amount of money that they spend on anti-DDOS and screen
 13 scraping. It didn't appear to be a lot of money, which
 14 is what I would expect for an organization the size of
 15 Ryanair.

16 BY MS. GIERHART:

17 Q I would be curious which document you are
 18 referring to.

19 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

20 THE WITNESS: God, I'd have to go back and
 21 look, but it was one of the responses. Do I have to --
 22 can I find it now, or should I just wait?

23 MS. GIERHART: I'd rather we move on if you
 24 don't know offhand.

25 THE WITNESS: No. I mean, I recall the

1 different reasons, I think we just accept it.

2 BY MS. GIERHART:

3 Q I guess the question is you had the opinion in
 4 2008 that you had an issue with the use of screen
 5 scraping and you were not a fan.

6 Are you a fan today of screen scraping?

7 MR. KASNER: Object to the form. Foundation.

8 THE WITNESS: I will never say that I am a fan
 9 of screen scraping. That's not what I'm saying here.
 10 What I'm saying here -- and I think I still hold the
 11 belief -- is if there is a better way to do things,
 12 then we should go for it. Screen scraping should not
 13 be something that should be a be -- a goal in and of
 14 its own self; but if it's the only way to achieve the
 15 goal, then you just accept it, and you move on. You do
 16 what you can.

17 BY MS. GIERHART:

18 Q I wanted to go up just a little bit in the
 19 article. You talk about there are three main types of
 20 screen scraping. Type 1, you say, is aggregate and
 21 then forward the user to the supplier. So you give the
 22 example of Kayak. So I think that's your example you
 23 were talking about where you aggregate data and then
 24 link to the supplier.

25 And, then, Type 2, you say, is "screen scrape

1 aggregate and then make the booking in the background
 2 without redirecting the consumer." Would --
 3 Is Booking.com in the Type 2 category?

4 A So these types were defined by me in 2008.

5 Since I haven't seen this article in at least 15 years,
 6 I'd have to think about that more before I could give a
 7 considered opinion, and since you are presenting this
 8 to me, I would ask for time to think about that
 9 question.

10 Q Sure. You can think about it.

11 And your response could be, you know, "In
 12 2008, this is how I would have considered it in 2008."

13 A In 2008, I think it was clearer because there
 14 was really -- there weren't as many options or as many
 15 nuances to it. So judging by the three criteria, if
 16 somebody else had written this, if I was using that as
 17 the criteria, I would say kind of, yes, that they are a
 18 Type 2, not completely yes as Type 2 because I would
 19 probably have had -- if I was looking at this now, the
 20 different types of screen scraping, I would have many
 21 more differentiations.

22 Q Okay. And I guess is the same --

23 Would Priceline fall into that Type 2?

24 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

25 THE WITNESS: I would answer it the same way.

1 BY MS. GIERHART:

2 Q Okay. I guess, going into your thinking
 3 there, Type 2, two paragraphs down, you say "Type 2 is
 4 the nasty one because it is essentially fooling the
 5 customer."

6 You do mention Ryanair here. Then you also
 7 say "It is also EXPRESSLY verboten with Ryanair and
 8 just about everyone else." And, then, you go into the
 9 terms and conditions for Ryanair.

10 A Correct.

11 Q So it sounds -- was your belief in 2008 that
 12 this Type 2 where the screen scraper is making the
 13 booking on the website without redirecting, that those
 14 were, sort of, this -- I mean, you clearly had strong
 15 feelings against them; is that accurate?

16 MR. KASNER: Object to the form. Misstates
 17 the document.

18 THE WITNESS: I'd like to agree with counsel.
 19 I think you are misstating the point here. What I am
 20 trying to say here is that -- that for the Type 2 -- I
 21 tried to focus very clearly on Type 2, and I was
 22 expressly thinking about these two players, V-tours,
 23 who I don't think exists anymore, and Bravofly that
 24 was, kind of, a cross-seller [ph].

25 And Bravofly was well known for basically

1 MS. GIERHART: Okay.
 2 THE WITNESS: And if you look there, I say
 3 that -- I name examples here of three -- of two
 4 players, V-Tours and Bravofly. And at the time -- and
 5 my memory is going to be a bit sketchy here because I
 6 haven't thought about this for a while, but Bravofly,
 7 if I recall correctly, was a well-known bad actor of
 8 Type 2, which is why I called them out because they did
 9 not provide any indication to the customer as to what
 10 they were doing and they had lots of problems and it
 11 was, kind of, well known.

12 The issue, I think, is the whole industry has
 13 moved on; and therefore, it doesn't appear to be the
 14 same as the situation that visited in 2008. I think it
 15 would be unfair to label either Booking or Priceline or
 16 even any other player you care to name in the same
 17 category without considering them in much more detail.

18 So I would just say I tend to think that there
 19 were very specific players in 2008, and I named two of
 20 them who I think were bad actors at the time. Whether
 21 or not they cleaned up their act, I can't say.

22 Does -- do I think that Booking and
 23 Priceline -- Booking.com and Priceline exactly fall
 24 into this category? I'd have to think about that.

25 ///

1 hoodwinking the customer, not just in the area of
 2 screen scraping but in other areas, and they acquired a
 3 very bad reputation for doing that inside the industry.

4 So my first categorization is, yes, if you are
 5 completely fooling the customer, which I believe that
 6 Ryanair -- I'm sorry. Excuse me. Not Ryanair. Excuse
 7 me -- that Bravofly was. And I don't think the same
 8 thing applies, which is why I think that Booking.com
 9 and Priceline don't fit the mold for the strict
 10 interpretation I had at the time with Type 2.

11 Again, this is reinterpreting something that I
 12 had from 15 years ago.

13 BY MS. GIERHART:

14 Q Okay. I guess, to scroll down to the
 15 paragraph we were looking at before where it starts off
 16 "I have an issue with" and it ends with that you said
 17 there's a rhetorical question, is it fair, therefore,
 18 for a scraper to make money out of someone else's
 19 resources?

20 Do you have an opinion on that?

21 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

22 THE WITNESS: I think that's still valid.

23 That's still a valid statement because, again, going to
 24 the specific case that we are talking about, Bravofly,
 25 which is the one I remember, Bravofly was absolutely

1 making money and was doing -- I think Michael O'Leary
 2 calls them "pirates," the pirate behavior of charging a
 3 completely different price to the one that Ryanair was
 4 putting out.

5 So the issue was different, and I think,
 6 therefore, that the statement is true that, in this
 7 particular case, the scraper was making money by
 8 misrepresenting things to the consumer and using the
 9 resources of the airline because they were charging a
 10 significant premium.

11 BY MS. GIERHART:

12 Q Okay. So if an OTA substantially marked up an
 13 airline's flights and was able to sell that flight
 14 through screen scraping through using the airline's
 15 resources, that would not be fair in your opinion?

16 MR. KASNER: Object -- object to the form.
 17 Calls for speculation.

18 Can I answer?

19 MR. KASNER: Yes.

20 THE WITNESS: So I would add one component,
 21 and was not being clear, as was the case with Bravofly,
 22 purporting to be something that they were not.

23 BY MS. GIERHART:

24 Q Okay. I guess, just in that case, what were
 25 they not being -- because I'm not familiar with it,

1 paragraph, "In my humble opinion therefore Ryanair is
 2 well within its rights to take this action even though
 3 it is objectionable and puts the consumer in the hot
 4 seat." Do you still hold that opinion today?

5 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

6 THE WITNESS: I think that if you take the
 7 case of a bad actor, that's if Ryanair was the good
 8 actor here and the person being damaged and the bad
 9 actor was someone like a Bravofly, I'd say yes.

10 BY MS. GIERHART:

11 Q And why is that?

12 A For the reason I think we've already discussed
 13 and for the reasons we have just gone through.

14 MS. GIERHART: All right. I'm going to show
 15 you one more blog post. Let me make sure -- okay.
 16 It's going to be Exhibit 131.

17 (Deposition Exhibit 131 was electronically
 18 received and marked for identification.)

19 BY MS. GIERHART:

20 Q It's from a similar time frame; in fact, I
 21 think only a week later. You can have a minute to read
 22 through it.

23 A I can't see it yet.

24 Q Oh. I'm sorry. Exhibit 131, do you have
 25 that?

1 what were they not being clear to the customer about?

2 A I -- again, this is 15-year-old memory, and a
 3 lot of water has flowed under a lot of bridges. I just
 4 remember Bravofly was well known for misrepresenting to
 5 consumers what it did, and it wasn't just an issue of
 6 screen scraping for which they actually did a lot of
 7 screen scraping, not just to Ryanair, but to a bunch of
 8 other players. And it was well known at the time that
 9 Bravofly -- again, this is recalling from memory --
 10 that Bravofly was a bad actor. And I think that when
 11 you look -- put all of those things together, I think
 12 my statement was accurate --

13 Q Okay.

14 A -- for Bravofly.

15 Q And, then, at the end -- okay. Well,
 16 actually, I just want to go to the very end of this,
 17 but to go back up to the start to orient what this
 18 article -- the catalyst for the article, in the second
 19 paragraph, you say this is about the stories that
 20 Ryanair has stated, effectively Monday, they will
 21 automatically cancel any bookings made by screen
 22 scrapers. I think you mean screen scrapers.

23 A I did.

24 Q Okay. So with that context, just to go to the
 25 very bottom, you conclude, the second to the last

1 paragraph, "In my humble opinion therefore Ryanair is
 2 well within its rights to take this action even though
 3 it is objectionable and puts the consumer in the hot
 4 seat." Do you still hold that opinion today?

5 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

6 THE WITNESS: I think that if you take the
 7 case of a bad actor, that's if Ryanair was the good
 8 actor here and the person being damaged and the bad
 9 actor was someone like a Bravofly, I'd say yes.

10 BY MS. GIERHART:

11 Q And why is that?

12 A For the reason I think we've already discussed
 13 and for the reasons we have just gone through.

14 MS. GIERHART: All right. I'm going to show
 15 you one more blog post. Let me make sure -- okay.
 16 It's going to be Exhibit 131.

17 (Deposition Exhibit 131 was electronically
 18 received and marked for identification.)

19 BY MS. GIERHART:

20 Q It's from a similar time frame; in fact, I
 21 think only a week later. You can have a minute to read
 22 through it.

23 A I can't see it yet.

24 Q Oh. I'm sorry. Exhibit 131, do you have
 25 that?

1 A I don't have it. Oh, sorry. There it is.

2 Yeah, it came up. Sorry.

3 Q No worries.

4 A Well, this is from August, I believe. The
 5 other one was from June. Was it from June? Oh, no.
 6 This is a week later. You are absolutely right. Okay.
 7 Let me just read this one.

8 Q Sure.

9 A I don't know if I can because it's a pdf. I
 10 was going to say, can we go and look at the article in
 11 Aviation Week? I doubt that we would be able to get to
 12 it --

13 Q Yeah. I'm not --

14 A -- because that would give context.

15 So I think I'm pretty clear here. Again, it's
 16 ten years ago. I was saying the bad Type 2s are
 17 actually the ones causing the problem. I'm trying to
 18 distinguish between bad Type 2s and good Type 2s are
 19 actually the ones causing the problem here.

20 Ryanair is well within the rights to go after
 21 these guys at the time in the jurisdiction that this
 22 happened. If, however, Ryanair went after Type 1
 23 scrapers, then I would be less enthusiastic. By
 24 implication, the good Type 2s would also fall under
 25 that category.

1 the same as what a conventional travel agency does.
 2 You need to have this minimum information in
 3 order to make a reservation. Yes, that's true. You
 4 can then use that information and look -- when you
 5 combine that with, for example, the behavior of the
 6 customer. So you can get -- you do get personalization
 7 out of this. That's standard business.

8 BY MS. GIERHART:

9 Q Okay. And, then, your next sentence is that,
 10 as such, Ryanair is attempting to establish itself as a
 11 competitor of online travel agencies.

12 Is it your contention that Ryanair is trying
 13 to establish itself as a competitor because it collects
 14 the name, the date of birth, and contact information of
 15 its customers?

16 MR. KASNER: Object to the form. It's one of
 17 the things that Ryanair does. Ryanair wants to provide
 18 the same level of service as an OTA does because, you
 19 know, we've gone through this at great length, looking
 20 at comparing OTAs and direct airlines, and I think
 21 Ryanair is trying to do the same. They want to be
 22 competitive with online travel agencies in gathering
 23 the customers' eyeballs.

24 BY MS. GIERHART:

25 Q You are saying they have the same business

1 model, which is to collect information about customers
 2 and then target marketing to them; right?

3 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.
 4 THE WITNESS: That is one of the things they
 5 do, yes.

6 BY MS. GIERHART:

7 Q Isn't that what essentially every company that
 8 markets to consumers today does?

9 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

10 THE WITNESS: That's no different. You are
 11 absolutely correct.

12 BY MS. GIERHART:

13 Q So is -- wouldn't that make every company a
 14 competitor of OTAs?

15 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

16 THE WITNESS: Let's put it this way: Amazon
 17 today -- touch wood -- does not sell travel on
 18 Amazon.com. So I think the context of this is very
 19 important. You can't do a search from Dublin to
 20 Stansted on Amazon.com. You can on an OTA, and you can
 21 on Ryanair.com. So I think the context is very
 22 important.

23 BY MS. GIERHART:

24 Q Okay. Is there anything else supporting your
 25 contention that Ryanair is a competitor with OTAs other

1 than what's here in the report?

2 A Sorry. Ask the question again.

3 Q Is there anything else that supports your
 4 contention that Ryanair is attempting to establish
 5 itself as a competitor of OTAs other than what you have
 6 here in the report, which is that they are both
 7 targeting customers?

8 MR. KASNER: Object to the form.

9 THE WITNESS: That is a very broad way that
 10 Ryanair and OTAs are competitive, and they both
 11 consider each other to be competitive. So, in my
 12 report, I've tried to demonstrate how you get to that
 13 point with what is the behavior of an airline, what is
 14 the behavior of intermediaries be they GDS or OTAs or
 15 other forms, and what is the behavior of the customer.

16 So, as a broad brush, I tried to give that --
 17 the answer to that information so that, inside the
 18 report, I tried to give a way that describes how
 19 Ryanair behaves, and that's very similar to how an OTA
 20 behaves, which is what's good.

21 MR. KASNER: I think we are at time. So, if
 22 we could just wrap this up, that would be great.

23 MS. GIERHART: Right. No. Yeah. I think --
 24 I think I'm -- we are at time. So I think I'm done.

25 MR. KASNER: Okay.

1 THE WITNESS: Okay.

2 MS. GIERHART: Did you have any questions, or
 3 are we done?

4 MR. KASNER: We do not have any questions.
 5 We would like to designate the transcript for this as
 6 highly confidential pursuant to the protective order.

7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Joanna, do you want copy
 8 orders on the record?

9 THE REPORTER: Yes, please. Does anyone need
 10 a copy of the transcript today?

11 MS. GIERHART: Yes. We'll -- e-tran only. We
 12 don't need paper copies, and if we can, get the rough
 13 and expedited.

14 MR. KASNER: The same for us would be great.

15 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

16 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: All right. This concludes
 17 the deposition on September 26, 2023, at 5:24 p.m.

18 (Deposition session concluded at 5:24 p.m.)

19 -oOo-

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1 Before completion of the deposition, review of
2 the transcript [] was [] was not requested. If
3 requested, any changes made by the deponent (and
4 provided to the reporter) during the period allowed,
5 are appended hereto. (Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(e)).
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DEPOSITION OF: TIMOTHY JAMES O'NEIL-DUNNE

DATE OF DEPOSITION: Tuesday, September 26, 2023

CASE: *Ryanair DAC v. Booking Holdings Inc., et al*, Case No. 20-1191-WCB**ERRATA SHEET**

The following are the corrections which I have made to my deposition transcript:

Pg.	Ln.	Now Reads	Should Read	Reason
9	12	“(inaudible)”	gist	Transcription
21	21	pr?cis	précis	Transcription
25	14	buying	enabling	Correction
34	11	crew	credentialed	Transcription
58	18	airline	airline,	Transcription
65	19	serve	settle	Correction
81	2	electronic	paper	Correction
102	11	DDS’s	GDSs’	Transcription
109	4	obstructed	abstracted	Transcription
112	12	bot	board	Transcription
113	17	Dog	dot	Transcription
141	10	educators	all comers	Transcription
148	9	part	path	Transcription
149	16	office	offers	Transcription
152	7	gain	against	Transcription
153	21	NDCs	NDC	Transcription
156	21	selling	sourcing	Transcription
158	17	agency or a regular brick...	agency or via a regular brick...	Transcription
160	16	Saudi	Saudia	Transcription

DEPOSITION OF: TIMOTHY JAMES O'NEIL-DUNNE

DATE OF DEPOSITION: Tuesday, September 26, 2023

CASE: *Ryanair DAC v. Booking Holdings Inc., et al*, Case No. 20-1191-WCB

Pg.	Ln.	Now Reads	Should Read	Reason
160	16	Saudi	Saudia	Transcription
161	21	indirect	direct	Transcription
167	19	reaching	reach and	Transcription
168	19	Flair,	Flair then,	Transcription
173	19	that	it	Transcription
179	13-14	“— like the”	“— like the – “	Transcription
190	20	airline's website	airlines' websites	Transcription
217	2	Sendai	Cendyne	Transcription
217	3	Sendai	Cendyne	Transcription
219	10	pausing	parsing	Transcription
219	25	pausing	parsing	Transcription
219	15	104	1040	Transcription
220	4	scraping/pausing	scraping/parsing	Transcription
220	21	light	flight	Transcription
223	5	pausing	parsing	Transcription
230	11	DDOS	DDoS	Transcription
232	8	earlier line	Value Alliance	Transcription
232	22	ValueAirlines.com	www.ValueAlliance.com	Transcription
238	19	DDS	DDoS	Transcription
241	6	DDOS	DDoS	Transcription
243	12	DDOS	DDoS	Transcription
244	23	DDOS	DDoS	Transcription

DEPOSITION OF: TIMOTHY JAMES O'NEIL-DUNNE

DATE OF DEPOSITION: Tuesday, September 26, 2023

CASE: *Ryanair DAC v. Booking Holdings Inc., et al*, Case No. 20-1191-WCB

Pg.	Ln.	Now Reads	Should Read	Reason
260	19	customer's water	customer is like water	Transcription
261	21	FAA	2FA	Transcription
267	21	pr?cis	précis	Transcription
277	24	DDOS	DDoS	Transcription
286	16	form. It's one	form." [Insert new line] "THE WITNESS: It's...	Transcription. The transcript improperly combines Mr. Kasner's objection with The Witness's answer
293	Index	DDOS	DDoS	Transcription
307	index	DDS's	GDSs'	Transcription
307	Index	DDS	DDoS	Transcription
307	Index	DDOS	DDoS	Transcription
331	Index	pausing	parsing	Transcription
334	Index	pr?cis	précis	Index should be corrected to reflect "précis"
340	Index	scraping/pausi ng	scraping/parsing	Transcription

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read the above-referenced deposition transcript and have made any corrections, additions or deletions reflecting my true and correct testimony.

EXECUTED this 15 day of November 2023, at 10:15 P< _____.

Timothy James O'Neil-Dunne
Timothy James O'Neil-Dunne

EXHIBIT 13

**PUBLIC VERSION -
CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL OMITTED IN FULL**

EXHIBIT 14

**PUBLIC VERSION -
CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL OMITTED**

Article

Web Scraping for Hospitality Research: Overview, Opportunities, and Implications

Cornell Hospitality Quarterly
2021, Vol. 62(1) 89–104
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DOI: [10.1177/1938965520973587](https://doi.org/10.1177/1938965520973587)
journals.sagepub.com/home/cqx



Saram Han^{1,2}  and Christopher K. Anderson¹ 

Abstract

As consumers increasingly research and purchase hospitality and travel services online, new research opportunities have become available to hospitality academics. There is a growing interest in understanding the online travel marketplace among hospitality researchers. Although many researchers have attempted to better understand the online travel market through the use of analytical models, experiments, or survey collection, these studies often fail to capture the full complexity of the market. Academics often rely upon survey data or experiments owing to their ease of collection or potentially to the difficulty in assembling online data. In this study, we hope to equip hospitality researchers with the tools and methods to augment their traditional data sources with the readily available data that consumers use to make their travel choices. In this article, we provide a guideline (and Python code) for how to best collect/scrape publicly available online hotel data. We focus on the collection of online data across numerous platforms, including online travel agents, review sites, and hotel brand sites. We outline some exciting possibilities regarding how these data sources might be utilized, as well as discuss some of the caveats that have to be considered when analyzing online data.

Keywords

web scraping; online review; data collection; Python

Introduction

The internet presents many interesting opportunities for understanding consumer choice. Any information displayed on any travel website represents a potential data source for hospitality researchers. For instance, a hospitality researcher might collect a list of reviews from TripAdvisor and perform text mining, or retrieve satisfaction ratings to perform some statistical analysis, or determine the relationship between price and page ranking at an online travel agent (OTA). Despite the appeal of these opportunities, however, the fact remains that manually collecting a large amount of online data is inefficient and practically impossible. A typical hospitality research study may require data from multiple hotels across different markets over a prolonged period of time; collecting this data manually can be incredibly time consuming and tedious. Therefore, hospitality researchers need to automate the process of gathering and storing the information presented on travel websites. This is where web scraping comes into play. Web scraping is the process of creating a computer program to download, parse, and organize data from the web in an automated manner (vanden Broucke & Baesens, 2018).

As Table 1 illustrates, there are several alternative approaches that hospitality researchers may consider when trying to automate the collection of online data. One

promising option is using an Application Programming Interface (API) provided by the firm hosting the data. However, APIs are often difficult to access, accessible only for a limited duration, or require upfront fees even when researchers are able to access an API. Furthermore, APIs generally will not expose all the required variables.

Recently, scholars have utilized alternative approaches to collect consumer behavior data that mimics online behaviors. Previous studies directly captured data in a simulation lab or survey setting where research participants acted as if they were actually completing online activities (Choi et al., 2017; Min et al., 2015; Shin et al., 2019). However, a common criticism of these studies is that there is a mismatch between real customer behavior and the behavior of the subjects in these experiments, which are often conducted by undergraduate students or participants in Amazon's Mechanical Turk (Schahn & Holzer, 1990). Moreover, although it is possible to conduct large-scale

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EXHIBIT

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Table 1.**Comparison of Common Data Collection Methods in Online Market Research.**

	Scraped Data	Commercial Web Scraping Service	API	Survey
Cost	Low	Medium	Low/Medium	High
Sample frame	Website users	Website users	Website users	Flexible
Customizability of variables	Medium	Low	Low	High
Ease of frequent collection	Easy	Moderate	Easy	Hard
Data type	Behavioral	Behavioral	Behavioral	Attitudinal
Limitations	Time and programming skills	Data may not be suitable to the researcher's need in terms of variables or content	Limited availability	Time and programming skills

Note. API = Application Programming Interface.

survey research, a number of barriers make that process difficult. Meanwhile, the scale of web scraped data usually is large in nature. Compared with conducting a survey, collecting publicly available online data is inexpensive—even considering the required fee for the commercial service. The monetary cost and effort required to conduct a survey increases linearly with each additional sample, whereas web scraping requires only a one-time expense. Hotel prices change daily, and online reviews are posted even more frequently. In such a dynamic market, a single sampling may not be sufficient. Conducting multiple surveys sequentially is expensive and requires a lot of effort, whereas collecting publicly available online data enables researchers to extract as much data as they need in real time.

Another data collection method that researchers frequently chose is to outsource the scraping task to third-party commercial firms (Wu et al., 2015). Although this is perhaps the simplest option, there are potential pitfalls that may arise due to the lack of discretion in the data collection process. For instance, researchers often realize too late that they forgot to ask the firm to scrape for certain variables. As a result, they are forced to either spend additional time, effort, and money or complete their research without having access to all the desired variables or behaviors.

However, the existing literature points out several drawbacks to web scraped data. One common critique of online data is that study results derived from this data are rarely generalizable to the behavior of the entire target population; although these data are useful to researchers who are interested only in the behavior of online customers, if the researcher's target population includes both online and offline customers, any results derived from online data will be highly vulnerable to selection bias. This is because web scraped data may overrepresent the unique behaviors of online customers. Meanwhile, researchers who opt to utilize surveys as their research method have the flexibility to design a sample frame capable of representing both online and offline customers. Another drawback of publicly

available data is that researchers have little discretion in measuring aspects from the sample. In contrast, researchers can include anything they want in a survey or questionnaire, and thus have no restriction in the variables that they can collect. Researchers should carefully decide whether web scraping is suitable to their research and fully consider the potential challenges web scraping poses. An ideal approach might be to collect data through both experiments and web scraping to confirm both the internal and external validity (Viglia & Dolnicar, 2020). For example, some researchers use web scraped data to develop their hypotheses and use traditional data collection methods to confirm these hypotheses (Kupor & Tormala, 2018). Although web scraping has become popular recently and presents an important opportunity to better understand the online marketplace, traditional data collection methods remain the most commonly used strategies in hospitality research.

Table 2 illustrates the potential benefits of web scraped data for hospitality research by summarizing papers by data type with a focus on online reviews in travel marketplaces. To gather this data, we surveyed six highly reputable hospitality journals using the advanced search feature that is available on any journal website. Our analysis included all papers written prior to July 2020. We classified papers as having utilized traditional data collections methods (such as surveys or interviews) if they included the term “online review” and at least one of the terms {“interview,” “survey,” “amazon mechanical turk,” “questionnaire”}, but none of the terms {“scrape,” “scraping,” “crawl,” “actual review,” “python”}. In contrast, any papers including the term “online review” and at least one of the following terms {“scrape,” “scraping,” “crawl,” “actual review,” “python”} were classified as having directly used web data for online review research. The search queries we used are as follows:

- Interview or survey: “online review” AND (“interview” OR “survey” OR “amazon mechanical turk” OR “questionnaire”) NOT (“scrape” OR “scraping” OR “crawl” OR “actual review” OR “python”).

Table 2.**Data Collection Methods Used for Online Review Research in Hospitality Journals.**

	Interview OR Survey	Web Data
<i>Cornell Hospitality Quarterly</i>	16	3
<i>Journal of Travel Research</i>	21	4
<i>Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research</i>	7	3
<i>International Journal of Hospitality Management</i>	138	21
<i>Annals of Tourism Research</i>	31	5
<i>Tourism Management</i>	82	25

- Web data: “online review” AND (“scrape” OR “scraping” OR “crawl” OR “actual review” OR “python”).

As the table indicates, only a handful of papers use data from the internet to tackle research questions that are related to online marketplaces.

The increasing availability of open source web scraping tools has made it a lot easier for the researchers to build their own customized web scrapers. This article aims to dismantle some of the barriers that hospitality researchers encounter when attempting to utilize web scraping in their online studies. However, this article is not a complete guide to web scraping, but rather an introduction to some of the key tools and requirements for scraping key hospitality data sources. Our article provides hospitality researchers with tools and techniques for collecting data from typical, interactive hotel websites. Due to the introductory nature of this article, we focus on applied concepts and functional illustrations. In this article, we assume that readers have fundamental knowledge of programming languages, such as defining variables, loops, and functions, but not necessarily Python. Proficient programmers and researchers who are familiar with web scraping may already be capable of writing their own code from scratch, and thus may find this article to be too applied or specific. The methods we suggest may not represent the most efficient methods available, as this article only considers websites that have dynamic contents—that is, webpages designed to change in response to human interactions (Massimino, 2016): for example, say a researcher wants to scrape not only all the customer reviews on a particular hotel webpage on TripAdvisor but also the profile information from each individual reviewer. TripAdvisor’s dynamic website is designed to present detailed profile information only when a user positions their cursor over the reviewer’s profile picture. This is where the dynamic-website specialized code that we cover in this article becomes useful. In contrast, if the website contains only static contents—meaning that the website does not change until the user (i.e., client) moves on to another webpage—our dynamic-website specialized code may take longer to function than static-website specialized code. Therefore, for

efficient coding, some researchers may want to refer to Massimino (2016) if the website contains only static contents. While the dynamic-website specialized codes can be used to analyze both static and dynamic contents, static-website specialized codes cannot analyze dynamic contents. As the goal of this article is to provide hospitality researchers with a generally useful tool that can be easily applied to a variety of websites, we only consider the dynamic-website specialized code in this article. Popular Python libraries specialized for static website scraping are Requests, BeautifulSoup, lxml, and Scrapy. Those who are interested in detailed instructions from utilizing these libraries and other web scraping methods that can be applied to broader websites should read vanden Broucke and Baesens (2018). We hope our article will make online data collection easier for hospitality researchers and spark greater interest in web scraping techniques. Therefore, our purposes include the following:

- Providing tools applicable to major hotel platforms (i.e., TripAdvisor, Expedia, Marriott.com, and Airbnb),
- Introducing the process in the simplest terms possible, and
- Discussing both the benefits and limitations of analyzing web scraped data.

This article is a step-by-step guide to web scraping, with a focus on websites that are particularly useful to hospitality researchers. Other papers tend to either focus too narrowly on specific websites or discuss web scraping at an abstract level. Considering that different travel websites provide different insights, hospitality researchers rarely utilize only one specific website in their research. Narrowly focused articles require hospitality researchers to learn different web scraping methods for each individual website included in their research. However, overly abstract articles often fail to provide all-in-one, generalized information that novices can apply to their own research. To narrow the gap between the needs of hospitality researchers and the currently available resources, our article focuses on two aspects that have not previously been thoroughly examined in a single paper.

First, rather than introducing different tools for each individual website, we introduce more general tools that are applicable to all major travel websites. Second, after reading our article, researchers will have all the knowledge they need to start web scraping, as our article provides the entire scripts used for scraping every major travel website.

The remainder of this article is constructed as follows. First, we introduce the environments required for running a Python-based scraper. Then, we explain the sample web scraping code for collecting online hotel reviews and prices. In addition to providing samples of key code required for scraping through the paper, in the supplemental appendix we provide complete scripts for scraping reviews and prices from major OTAs, review sites and hotel brand sites. As most web scraped data are secondary data, with the data generation process outside the researcher's control, biases have to be handled with caution. Therefore, we also illustrate some possible biases that researchers should be aware of before analyzing scraped data. Finally, we discuss the academic implications of web scraping and the ethical issues that hospitality researchers should consider when collecting online data for their own research.

Web Scraping Fundamentals

In the following section, we outline the fundamentals of web scraping illustrated through the use of Python—a general-purpose programming language. Our article is not an introduction to Python as a whole, but rather focuses on the aspects of Python that are key to web scraping. Python is a very approachable and intuitive programming language and is often the language of choice for many introductory programming courses. There are many online resources that provide an overview of Python. For those who are interested in learning the basics of Python language, we recommend reading Downey (2014). However, our focus in this section is on the unique methods and skills necessary for scraping hospitality data from a variety of sources using Python. As there is a large scraping community that uses Python3, throughout the article we utilize Python3 specifically (<https://www.python.org/downloads/>).

Required Environment and Python Codes

As our goal is to simplify the process of gathering online information and transforming it into a meaningful data set, we focus only on the essential elements of web scraping in this article. Over the course of this article, we use three different tools to make a scraper that facilitates the collection of data from major hotel websites: Selenium, WebDriver, and XPath. Figure 1 presents the flowchart of the steps of how we utilize the tools specialized for web scraping the dynamic contents.

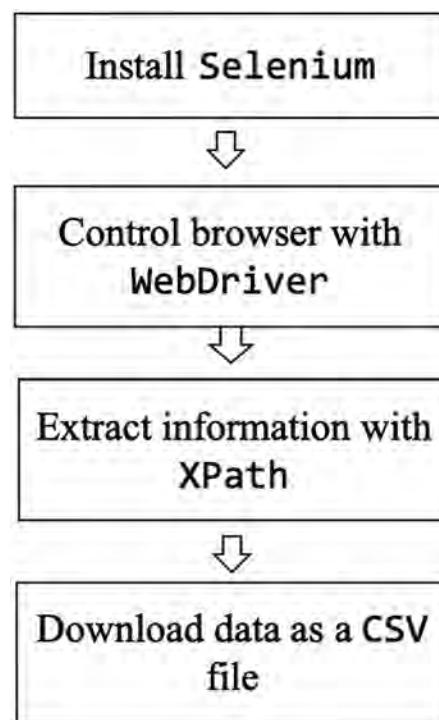


Figure 1.

Flowchart of Web Scraping for Extracting Dynamic Contents.

Selenium. In this section, we introduce the Python library Selenium. Although there are many libraries in Python that facilitate web scraping, Selenium is the most useful when dealing with interactive, JavaScript-heavy pages like those on travel sites such as TripAdvisor, Airbnb, and Expedia. We start by illustrating scraping approaches for extracting review data from TripAdvisor (Listing 1). We then extend this approach to extract review data from other platforms and later extend this approach further to collect other types of data, for example, prices. Let's begin by scraping reviews and basic reviewer profile information from the following TripAdvisor link: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g60763-d93344-Reviews-The_Watson_Hotel-New_York_City_New_York.html.

Listing 1.

Define Our Target Website for Scraping.

```

1. target_page = "https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g60763-d93344-Reviews-The_Watson_Hotel-New_York_City_New_York.html"
  
```

First, let's name this target page. With other Python libraries (BeautifulSoup, request, Scrapy, etc.), you can



The screenshot shows a review from a hotel. At the top, there are four green circular icons. Below them, the section title 'Pros and Cons' is displayed. The main text of the review is as follows:

"My family and I stayed here over mid term break in February 2020. Here is a list of pros and cons: Pros - The location was great. Close enough to the busy streets of Columbus Circle and Times Square but far enough that we didn't feel overwhelmed. Perfect location if you don't mind walking 10 mins to get to it all. Check in was pleasant and swift. Our room was clean and considering its NYC, room was pretty spacious!! Pillows and bed were nice and heater for the room wasn't too loud. Great Room Service that was opened late. Sports bar area great for watching the game - fun atmosphere. Lobby was nice and concierge were friendly. We had a room that was at the end of a hallway, so for us, we experienced very little noise from outside. Cons - Everything about the bathroom needed..."

At the bottom of the review, there is a 'Read more' button with a downward arrow, indicating that the full review is expandable.

Figure 2.
Example of an Interactive Platform.

scrape everything that is displayed on the screen. While this is good news, it also means that you cannot scrape information that is hidden until you click on it. For instance, contents that are hidden behind the button “Read more,” as illustrated in Figure 2, cannot be scraped with other popular Python libraries such as BeautifulSoup, request, or Scrapy. Unlike websites that are only written in Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) or CSS, many interactive travel sites use JavaScript, which allow for interactive functionality on the web page. Contrary to many other programming languages, the core functionality of JavaScript lies in making webpages more interactive and dynamic. Therefore, for sites that make heavy use of JavaScript, we need to write our code in a way that emulates human browsing behavior. That is where the Python library Selenium comes into play. You can easily install it with the following code in the command line: `pip install -U selenium` from the terminal window on your computer. Selenium requires a third-party software called a WebDriver which we discuss in the next paragraph.

WebDriver. WebDrivers exist for most modern internet browsers, including Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Internet Explorer. When using these browsers, a browser window will open up on your screen and perform the actions specified in your code. We can easily download a WebDriver from <https://sites.google.com/a/chromium.org/chromedriver/downloads>. As WebDrivers exist for most popular browsers, you can choose to download whichever WebDriver best works for you. In the following section, we assume that readers will download the WebDriver for Google’s Chrome browser—chromedriver. Make sure you download the file that matches both your operating system (i.e., Windows, Mac, or Linux) and the version of your current browser (i.e., Chrome, Internet Explorer, Edge, or Firefox). The ZIP file you download will contain an executable called chromedriver.exe on Windows, or simply

chromedriver otherwise. While locating the WebDriver in the same directory as your Python scripts is the easiest way to call the driver, it is also possible to explicitly pass the location of where you have the WebDriver as we do with the variable `driver_loc` in the code Listing 2. Once the WebDriver opens the browser, you can interact with the browser until you close it (i.e., `driver.close()`).

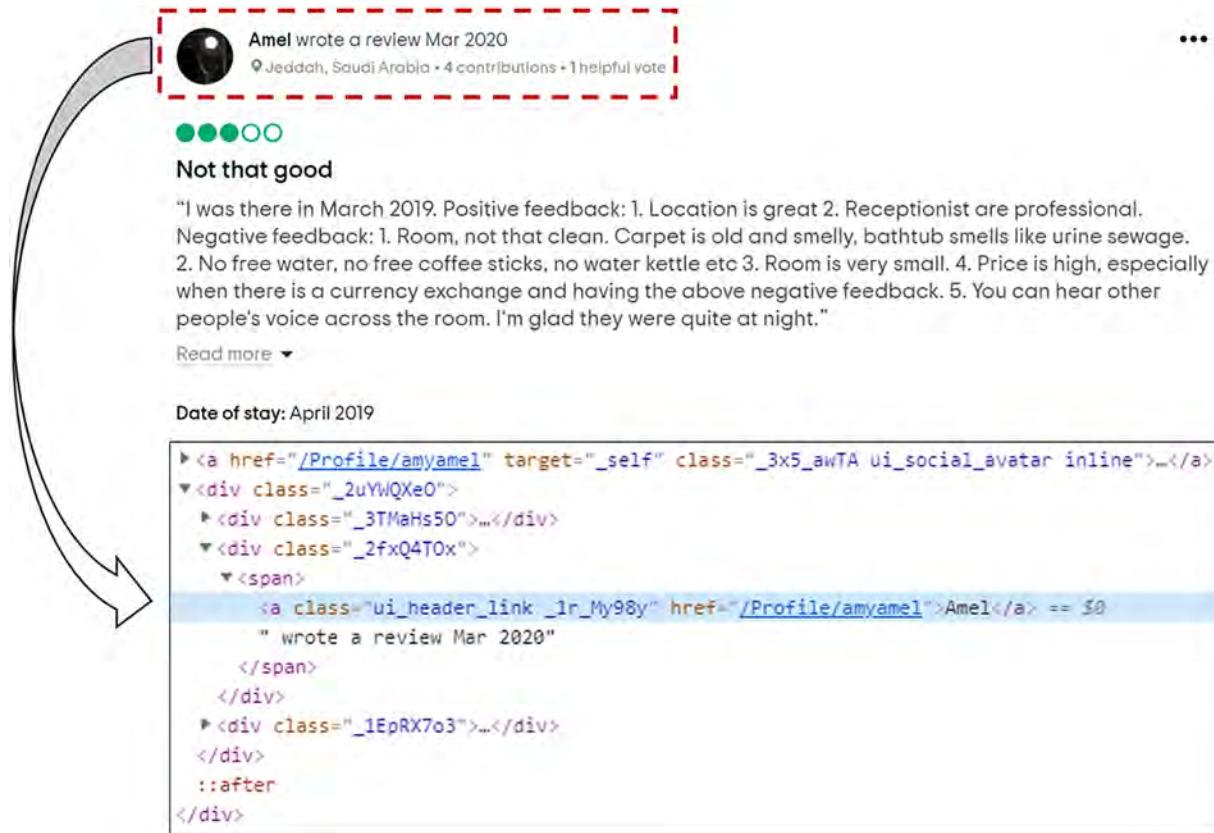
Listing 2.

Python Code for Opening and Closing Your WebDriver.

```
1. driver_loc = 'C:/Users/Desktop/chrome
   driver.exe'
2. driver = webdriver.Chrome(driver_loc)
3. driver.get(target_page)
4. #Write your scraper here.
5. driver.close()
```

XPath. Once a page is loaded with WebDriver, you will want to extract the information displayed on the screen and download it on your computer. To extract this information, you first need to view the source code of the website elements you want to scrape. For Windows users, the easiest way to check this information is to right-click on the part within the web page you want to scrape and select “Inspect.” You will then see a tree-based view of the HTML codes. Every web page is made up of a bunch of these HTML tags denoting each type of content on the page. By clicking on the arrows, you can see the nested structure of the code. To scrape hotel review websites, we only need to understand the basic structure of HTML language, which consists of tag, attribute, and the value of the attribute. Figure 3 illustrates part of the source code underlying the page displayed after selecting “Inspect.”

As an illustration, let us assume that the element of the HTML code written to display the reviewer’s name (i.e.,



Amel wrote a review Mar 2020
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia • 4 contributions • 1 helpful vote

Not that good

"I was there in March 2019. Positive feedback: 1. Location is great 2. Receptionist are professional. Negative feedback: 1. Room, not that clean. Carpet is old and smelly, bathtub smells like urine sewage. 2. No free water, no free coffee sticks, no water kettle etc 3. Room is very small. 4. Price is high, especially when there is a currency exchange and having the above negative feedback. 5. You can hear other people's voice across the room. I'm glad they were quite at night."

Read more ▾

Date of stay: April 2019

```

<a href="/Profile/amyamel" target="_self" class="3x5_awTA ui_social_avatar inline">...</a>
<div class="2uYWQXe0">
  <div class="3TMaHs50">...</div>
  <div class="2fxQ4TOx">
    <span>
      <a class="ui_header_link _1r_My98y" href="/Profile/amyamel">Amel</a> == 50
      " wrote a review Mar 2020"
    </span>
  </div>
  <div class="1EpRX7o3">...</div>
</div>
::after
</div>

```

Figure 3.
Displayed Tree-Based HTML Code View after Clicking on Inspect.

Amel) is shown in Listing 3, where the `<a> . . . ` is just one of the many existing tags (e.g., `<p>`, `<div>`, ``) in HTML which encloses the hyperlink and styles the web designer decided to use when displaying the reviewer's name. The value of the attribute "MemberBlock" is the name of a style that is assigned to the attribute class. Likewise, `href` is another attribute of this element that redirects users to the reviewer's profile page when they click on the reviewer's username. XPath is a language used to find the location of any element on a web page using this structure of the HTML. Selenium can use the XPath language to select elements. Although there are many Selenium methods, we use only `find_element_by_xpath` and `find_elements_by_xpath` throughout this article for ease of application.

Listing 3.
HTML Element for the Reviewer's Name.

1. `Amel`

To extract the information from the HTML code Listing 3, the XPath has to be written as, `//a[@`

`class='MemberBlock']`, which basically is `//Tag[@Attribute='Value']` that can be interpreted as "grab the current node (`//`) with the tag name where the class attribute corresponds to `MemberBlock`." However, often-times the value of the attribute is very long and contains multiple special characters. This can be difficult because if even one of the characters is missing, a serious error may occur. `//a[contains(@class, 'Member')]` presents an easier way to call the same element, by utilizing the same process but not requiring users to include the entire value of the attribute. This XPath prevents the researcher from provoking an error simply by not indicating the exact value of the attribute. The function `contains()` enables Selenium to easily find the desired element, even if the researcher only provides a fragment of the attribute value. Accordingly, the `find_element_by_xpath` method in the code Listing 4 indicates the element of the HTML code Listing 3.

Listing 4.
Indicating the HTML Element.

1. `driver.find_element_by_xpath("//a[contains(@class, 'Member')])"`

To extract the reviewer's name, we can add .text as shown in the code Listing 5.

Listing 5. Indicating the Text Content.

```
1. driver.find_elements_by_xpath("./a[contains(@class, 'Member')]").text
```

Note that the value of the same attribute can always change (e.g., MemberBlock) whenever the web designer defines a different name for the value. Therefore, the same web scraper may not work if the web designer updates the HTML code. If an error occurs after running the codes that we provided in the supplemental appendix, we recommend our readers to review the HTML code of the target website and check whether the value of the attribute has changed.

If the researcher is interested in extracting the user's profile link, the following .get_attribute("href") method is useful for finding the value of the href attribute (Listing 6).

Listing 6. Indicating the Value of the "href" Attribute.

```
1. driver.find_element_by_xpath("./a[contains(@class, 'Member')]").text
   get_attribute("href")
```

Applications for Major Hotel Platforms

In this section, we apply these scripts to scrape four major hotel review websites and discuss how to best deal with platform-specific features when building a scraper. We also discuss how hospitality researchers can take advantage of the unique opportunities presented by each individual platform.

Reviews on TripAdvisor. TripAdvisor is the largest player in the travel review platforms arena (Wang & Chaudhry, 2018). Therefore, this platform has been used in many marketing and hospitality studies (Chevalier et al., 2018; Wang & Chaudhry, 2018). TripAdvisor has several unique features that make it attractive to researchers. For instance, each individual's previous platform activities are displayed on their profile. This feature allows researchers to take reviewer level heterogeneity into account as they analyze TripAdvisor data (Gao et al., 2017). Therefore, we recommend scraping each reviewer's profile URL to collect individual-level data that may be useful in the future.

Another interesting feature that recent studies have started to focus on is the existence of *retailer-prompted reviews* (Askalidis et al., 2017; Han & Anderson, 2020;

Mayzlin et al., 2014). Unlike regular self-motivated reviews, retailer-prompted reviews are those that are posted in response to hotels' email invitations to post reviews online. This feature allows researchers to investigate how rating behavior differs depending on the nature of the review posting process.

Although most scraping tasks can be completed using the aforementioned functions and XPath, there is one problem that requires additional attention. As mentioned in Figure 2, many TripAdvisor reviews are long, meaning that users must click on the "Read more" button to see the full review. Researchers must be able to automatically click this button to scrape entire reviews. For this purpose, Selenium offers a selection of "actions" that can be performed by the browser, such as clicking elements. Fortunately, in TripAdvisor, once you expand one review, the rest of the reviews within the same page expand as well. If for some reason all of the desired reviews do not automatically expand with a single click, a for-loop can be added to expand each review individually (see Listing 8). Once we identify the element where the "Read more" button locates, we can use the execute_script method to expand the review. We recommend using try-except to avoid the scraper stopping in situations where there is no expandable review on the page.

Listing 7. Python Script to Expand the Review Element.

```
1. more = driver.find_elements_by_xpath("./div[contains(@data-test-target, 'expand'))")
2. try:
3.     driver.execute_script("arguments[0].click()", more[0])
4. except:
5.     pass
```

Listing 8.

Python Script to Expand Every Review Element Within a for-loop.

```
1. for container in containers:
2.     more = container.find_elements_by_xpath("./div[contains(@class, 'expand'))")
3.     try:
4.         driver.execute_script("arguments[0].click()", more[0])
5.     except:
6.         pass
```

**Figure 4.**

Pagination.

**Figure 5.**

Infinite Scrolling.

TripAdvisor presents hotel reviews over multiple separate pages. Once you have successfully scraped the information from the first page of reviews, you may want to move on to the following page to scrape older reviews. This is called pagination (Figure 4; Zhang et al., 2020). We can use the `execute_script` method again to send a JavaScript command to the browser. This method clicks on the “Next page” button, enabling researchers to scrape the same information on the following pages (Listing 9).

Listing 9.

Clicking the Next Page Button.

```

1. element = driver.find_element_by_xpath(''//a
[contains(@class, "nav next"))'')
2. driver.execute_script("arguments[0].
click();", element)

```

Reviews on Expedia. One big advantage of Expedia is that all reviews are written by valid customers. That is, as Expedia only allows customers who purchased through their website to write reviews, there is a smaller chance that users will see fake reviews written by non-verified customers on Expedia than on other websites such as TripAdvisor, where anyone can write reviews. Moreover, as Expedia sends out email requests to everyone who makes purchases through their website, the entire review collection process is similar to a survey. Therefore, as long as we know who did not respond to the email request sent by Expedia, we can generalize the study results to the population of those who purchased through Expedia. This may not be possible when using data from TripAdvisor, as the TripAdvisor customers’ sample frame is unknown.

On Expedia, users may not need to click the “Next page” button as they do on TripAdvisor. Instead, they must scroll down and load older reviews by clicking on the “More reviews” button shown in Figure 5. This is called infinite scrolling. If there is a significant quantity of reviews written

about a given hotel, users must scroll further down and repeatedly click on the “More reviews” button until all the reviews have loaded. The scraper must mimic this process. Listing 10 opens the number of reviews that you assign with `revnum` (e.g., we set here as 300). This while-loop continues scrolling down until the accumulated number of loaded reviews exceeds `revnum`.

Listing 10.

Scrolling Down.

```

1. revnum = 300
2. loadednum = 0
3. while loadednum < revnum:
4.     more = driver.find_element_by_xpath
        ("//button[contains(@class, 'more-
reviews-button')]") 
5.     driver.execute_script("arguments[0].
click();", more)
6.     time.sleep(1)
7.     containers = driver.find_elements_
        by_xpath("//div[contains(@class,
        'uitk-card-separator-bottom')]") 
8.     loadednum = len(containers)

```

Reviews on Airbnb. Airbnb is a peer-to-peer marketplace that emerged as a typical example of what is called the sharing economy. Many studies present evidence that Airbnb threatens the traditional accommodation market system (Zervas et al., 2018). This website is most interesting to researchers hoping to better understand customers’ behavior in the sharing economy. Due to the peer-to-peer market nature, previous studies argue that there are unique rating behaviors in Airbnb (Ert & Fleischer, 2019). For instance, in addition to guests rating service providers, guests are also evaluated by the host, and these ratings are made publicly available as well. Owing to this dual review process, suppliers tend to receive overwhelmingly high ratings that are not observed under other hotel review systems (Zervas et al., 2018). Despite these unique features of the sharing economy, little is understood about this system. We hope that, by making Airbnb data more accessible, we can encourage other researchers to further explore the sharing economy.

The scraping code for Airbnb is a combination of the codes used for TripAdvisor and Expedia, as the website randomly changes their review display. That is, when the WebDriver visits the supplier's page on Airbnb, the reviews are randomly listed either as pagination or infinite scrolling. Therefore, once the WebDriver opens Airbnb, we need to first determine which scraper should be applied based on the HTML structure. Although there are many different ways to accomplish this, here we build a `check_exists` function that checks whether Airbnb reviews are displayed in pagination or infinite scrolling.

```

1. def check_exists(self, xpath):
2.     try:
3.         self.find_element_by_xpath
            (xpath)
4.     except NoSuchElementException:
5.         return False

```

After building the function that checks which platform design we have to deal with, we can simply run different scrapers by writing the following if statement.

```

1. # example of xpath that uniquely
indicates Infinite scrolling
2. xpath = '//*[@class="16i7snfh"]'
3. if check_exists(driver, xpath)==True:
4.     # Codes for infinite scrolling
5. else:
6.     # Codes for pagination

```

Reviews on hotel brand sites. Major hotel brands have their own websites where customers can write reviews about their experience, just as they can on TripAdvisor or Expedia. Brands offer up their own reviews in an effort to reduce the need for prospective consumers to visit other travel sites such as TripAdvisor or Expedia. Hotel brands are motivated to do this because reservations made on sites such as TripAdvisor and Expedia are more costly to hotels and because customers who visit these sites may end up booking their stay with another company. It is possible that customers who read and write reviews on hotel brand websites differ from those who use other platforms where alternative hotel options are listed. For instance, these customers may be more loyal to the brand or hoping to have their opinions heard by the hotel manager rather than by other potential customers. Platforms like this, where the user groups differ from other platforms users, generate lots of interesting research opportunities.

Although the scraper should be written differently depending on whether the targeted hotel website uses pagination or ultimate scrolling, the overall process of writing the scraper remains exactly the same regardless of the target website. We include an illustration of Marriott.com in Appendix A (along with complete scripts for other travel sites).

Scraping (Prices) at the Market-Level

While scraping online reviews enable researchers to understand customer Word-of-Mouth (WOM) behaviors, scraping prices gives us insight into the market. This requires no major additional functions or methods beyond the scripts that we introduced previously for scraping reviews. The only difference is that we loop over different hotels within a specific market instead of different reviews. Remember that our scraping code differs by whether the page uses pagination or infinite scrolling. While hotel prices listed on Airbnb and TripAdvisor are displayed using pagination, hotels on Expedia are listed using infinite scrolling. Therefore, utilizing the same approach detailed in code Listing 9, we can build our scraper for Airbnb and TripAdvisor to collect price data and click on the "Next" button to move on to the following pages (see code Listing 11).

Listing 11.

Click the Next Button to Collect all Hotel Prices.

```

1. next_exists = check_exists(driver, '//*[@
            contains(@aria-label, "Next")]')
2. if next_exists:
3.     element=driver.find_element_by_
            xpath('//*[@contains(@aria-label,
            "Next")]')
4.     driver.execute_script("arguments[0].
            click()", element)

```

In contrast, for Expedia we design the code to scroll down until there are no additional listings before documenting the hotel prices (see code Listing 11). This approach is equivalent to how we scraped the reviews from Expedia in code Listing 12.

Listing 12.

Scrolling Down to Collect all Hotel Prices.

```

1. while check_exists(driver, '//*[@
            contains(@data-stid, "show-more-
            results")]'):
2.     more = driver.find_element_by_xpath
            ('//*[@contains(@data-stid,
            "show-more-results")]')

```

Table 3.**The Number and the Average Length of Reviews Across Three Platforms During 2018–2020.**

	TripAdvisor	Expedia	Hotel Brand
Number of reviews	713	2,089	1,760
Average review length	731.12	119.56	141.63

```

3.     driver.execute_script("arguments[0].
  click();", more)
4.     time.sleep(1)
5.     containers = driver.find_elements_
  by_xpath("//div[contains(@class,
  'link-container')]")

```

Platform Differences Causing Biases

Although collecting and analyzing online review data broadens our understanding, it is important to mention a few relevant caveats. Unfortunately, many studies conducting research using data from online travel sites ignore the biases that arise when using secondary data. Multiple selection biases exist in scraped data, which can impact a researcher's ability to draw insights about the target population (i.e., all customers who stayed at the hotel). In this section, we present some of the noteworthy differences between hotel review platforms that hospitality researchers should be aware of before collecting and using web scraped data.

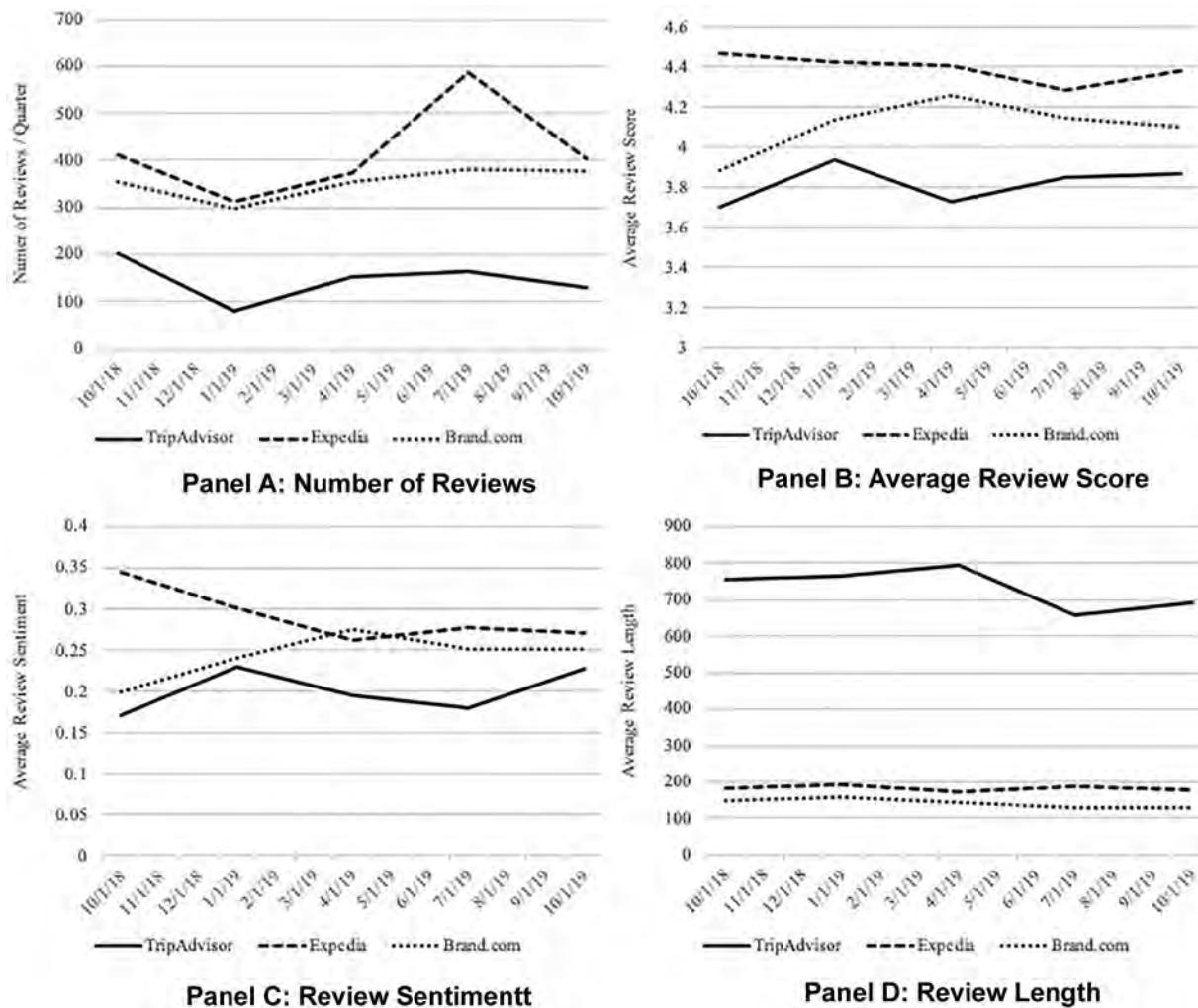
Review Differences Across Platforms

Owing to differences in how reviews are collected and written, collected reviews may vary in terms of number, valence, and content depending on what hotel review platform they were posted on (Litvin & Sobel, 2019). This is true even for reviews that were written about the same hotel and during the same time period. This is true for a couple of reasons. First, every hotel review platform has its own objectives and its own review collection process. To encourage review submission, Expedia sends customers a post-stay email with a link to submit a hotel review. TripAdvisor, however, relies fully on customers' self-motivation to post reviews: unless individual hotels choose to partner with TripAdvisor to invite their verified customers to post reviews, either by sending an email or through their online reputation management firms (e.g., ReviewPro, Revinate, and Medallia). These differences in the review collection process among these platforms yield systematic differences in terms of the review scores and their content. Second, customers may perceive different platforms as having different audiences. Therefore, different types of customers may prefer different platforms depending on who they hope to reach with their review. While customers may perceive distributors' websites (i.e., a hotel's own website or Expedia) as a suitable

channel for contacting hotel managers, TripAdvisor might be perceived as an appropriate method for reaching other potential customers. As a result, the dominant valence and topics may differ across platforms.

Several noteworthy patterns are frequently observed across travel platforms. First, a major difference between review platforms is the number of reviews per hotel. To illustrate how a given hotel's quality might be evaluated differently by each of the three platforms, we scraped the reviews of the New York Marriott Marquis, which has a large number of reviews on TripAdvisor, Expedia, and Marriott's own website. For the purposes of this demonstration, we utilized reviews written between October 2018 and December 2019. Table 3 demonstrates that significantly more reviews were posted on Expedia and the hotel's own website than on TripAdvisor. This pattern is particularly interesting because anyone can post a review on TripAdvisor, whereas only verified guests can post reviews on OTAs and hotel brand sites. A major driver in creating this disparity in the number of reviews across the platforms stems from how the reviews are collected. Expedia and hotels encourage customers to post reviews online by sending post-stay feedback invitation emails. This pattern holds across different time periods, as shown in Figure 6, where we plot review characteristics (number, score, sentiment, and length) on a quarterly basis for 2018 and 2019. The average review length is significantly longer on TripAdvisor than on the other platforms. Self-motivated (i.e., non-email prompted) reviewers are more likely to put greater effort into writing reviews, given that they have already undertaken the effort of opening TripAdvisor and posting a review. Therefore, review length (calculated in number of words) is greatest on TripAdvisor, where most reviews are self-motivated. After eliminating stop words, which refer to the words that are filtered out due to their extremely high or low appearances, we counted the words that appeared on each platform. As is shown in Table 4, the most frequently used words are slightly different depending on the platform. Unlike Expedia and TripAdvisor, where the most frequent word is "room," the hotel's own site reviewers are more focused on the hotel location.

Finally, the distribution of ratings between the two platforms has different patterns, as is shown in Figure 7. The proportion of relatively negative ratings is higher on TripAdvisor than on Expedia or the brand site. Given the cost or effort of posting a review on TripAdvisor, customers may be more likely to post if their expectations have not been met (or have been exceeded), and as a result these

**Figure 6.**

Differences in Reviews (Number, Score, Sentiment, and Length) by Platform.

Table 4.
Top 10 Most Frequently Used Words for the Same Hotel's Reviews by Platforms.

	TripAdvisor	Expedia	Hotel Brand
1	room (1,346)	room (754)	location (678)
2	time (1,035)	location (691)	room (654)
3	stay (659)	time (482)	stay (644)
4	square (536)	staff (400)	time (562)
5	location (463)	square (334)	staff (488)
6	get (367)	stay (288)	square (352)
7	service (360)	leave (287)	service (295)
8	one (349)	review (282)	excellent (228)
9	staff (336)	comments (281)	good (217)
10	floor (331)	traveler (281)	clean (210)

reviews may be more extreme (and perhaps nonrepresentative; Anderson et al., 1994). In contrast, reviews that were more easily posted (due to the email invitation) are less likely to be affected by the different posting motivation across different ratings. As a result, reviewers that would otherwise have relatively low posting intention (i.e., positive ratings) are able to easily submit their reviews, potentially resulting in higher average ratings at sites with email encouraged/prompted reviews, for example, OTAs and brand sites (Han & Anderson, 2020).

Price Differences Across Platforms

Next to reviews, prices are among the most interesting data types available across different travel platforms. Just as

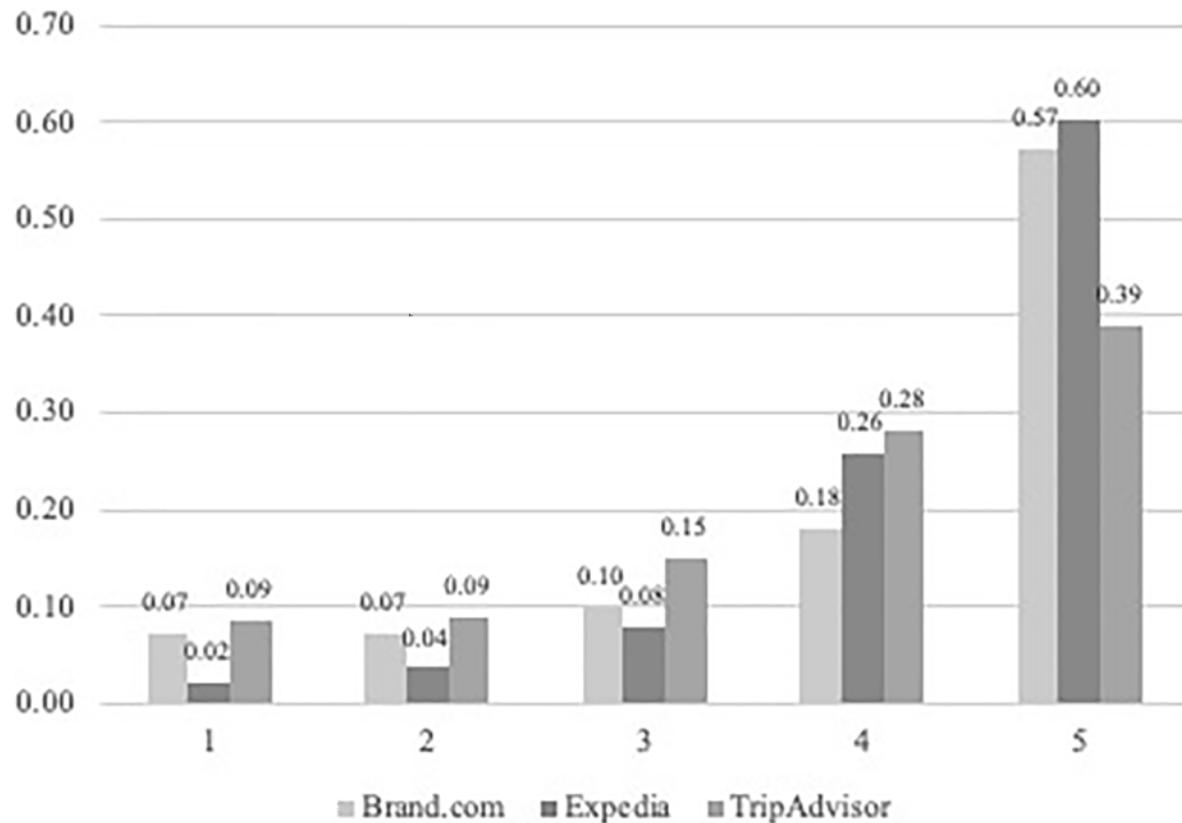


Figure 7.
Distribution of Review Scores by Platform.



Figure 8.
Listing of a Sold-Out Property in Expedia.

with reviews, different platforms have different objectives and different capabilities when presenting prices. As a result, the way in which prices are displayed and communicated across platforms varies, which may influence customers' purchasing decisions. For example, Expedia displays all properties, including those that are sold-out or have limited availability, as is shown in Figure 8. In contrast, other travel platforms, such as Airbnb, only list properties that are available and have price data to be displayed. Customers may behave differently as a result of these differences in

information display. Accordingly, it is likely that customers behave differently depending on which travel platform they choose (Park & Jang, 2018). Therefore, assuming that all platforms have the same market structure ignores these differences in information stimuli that influence customer behavior.

OTAs are also considerably more versed in merchandising when displaying price information. Merchandising by OTAs may include such actions as strike-through pricing or scarcity messaging, which attempt to increase conversion

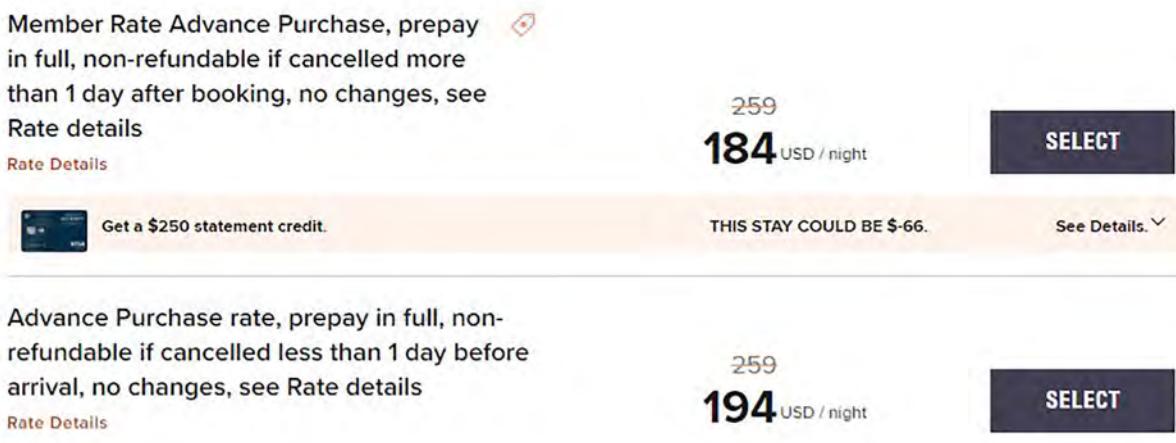


Figure 9.
Different Price Offer to the Members.

rates. Similarly, rate parity has received considerable attention recently. While OTAs want to display prices that can compete with those posted on supplier websites, hotels are often motivated to offer better prices to customers who book directly to avoid OTA commissions. Closed user group (CUG) or membership selling is a common method of offering lower prices to a subset of consumers. In CUG situations, the consumer must login (either at the OTA or hotel site) to access better prices. Figure 9 illustrates strike-through prices and the resulting member rates available to a typical CUG. By definition, CUG discounted prices are only available to those who have logged in; the majority of customers will never see this price disparity. Researchers who analyze the online hotel market using prices scraped from travel websites must understand how these distribution channels influence each other.

Implications

The academic implications of web scraping are twofold: exploratory and confirmatory. In general, web scraped data are suitable for exploratory research where the research question has not been examined in detail. The aim of this research area is to understand the general pattern of the customers in question and find preliminary evidence that warrants a more detailed study. For example, Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil et al. (2013) show that users in online beer communities follow a two-stage life cycle in terms of the language they use: the innovative learning phase and the conservative phase. Wu and Huberman (2010) found that later online product review ratings tend to vary considerably from earlier ones, making overall review ratings less extreme. Although these studies demonstrate interesting behavioral patterns and

are valuable in their own right, they still require further testing in an experimental setting.

Web scraped data are also often used in confirmatory studies that test hypotheses from previous studies (Landers et al., 2016; Marres & Weltevrede, 2013). If this hypothesis testing investigates whether one of the variables scraped from the website is an exogenous variable that varies independently of an error term, this study is considered as an experiment (Harrison & List, 2004). Web scraped data enable researchers to conduct experiments in a real environmental context and conduct research without informing research subjects that they are taking part in an experiment. This research design is referred to as a natural experiment. The advantage of a natural experiment is that it accounts for the realistic environment that real customers encounter. Therefore, an ideal natural experiment not only increases external validity but also does so when internal validity is insufficient (Harrison & List, 2004). For example, Han and Anderson (2020) take advantage of a unique characteristic of TripAdvisor, the fact that a portion of its reviewers post after being prompted to do so by hotel managers. By comparing regular self-motivated reviews and prompted reviews, the authors test whether satisfied or dissatisfied customers are more motivated to post online reviews. Web scraped data can also be combined with data from other sources in confirmatory research. Xie et al. (2014) combined TripAdvisor's review data with archival data regarding hotel revenue per available room (RevPAR) matched to the Texas Comptroller's Office database to investigate the impact of various review website attributes on hotel performance.

Managers in the hospitality industry can benefit from web scraping, too. It is well known that customers heavily rely on online reviews before making a purchasing decision

(Brown et al., 2007; Chevalier & Mayzlin, 2006). Therefore, it is important to understand how customers evaluate services. Although there are multiple online reputation management companies that do this job on behalf of firms, hotels can save money by web scraping themselves. For example, firms can web scrape major online review websites in the industry periodically and automate this process, which is referred to as web crawling (Massimino, 2016). Without spending any extra money, firms can obtain a summary of each online review website. Based on these summaries, managers can decide which review websites they should prioritize and invest to maximize the number of reviews they receive.

Ethical Concerns

As legislation on web scraping varies from country to country, researchers should look into local legislation. In this section, we discuss the legal and ethical issues mainly in the U.S. context. On September 9, 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized web scraping in situations where the scraped information is designed to be publicly accessible. The court defined public information as data that are neither available for purchase nor hidden behind a password-protected authentication system. The logic behind the court's decision was that, legally, web scraping is no different than browsing in terms of what data are being requested from a website. However, web scraping information that is accessible exclusively to the members and requires logging in is illegal, as this behavior explicitly violates the terms of service (ToS).

It is also noteworthy that web scraping copyrighted data and re-using them for commercial purposes would be considered illegal. For example, web scraping video contents from YouTube and re-posting them on ones' own website could be illegal as videos are copyrighted.

However, illegally sharing data is not likely a matter of concern for the majority of our target audience: researchers who are interested in using web scraping for academic purposes. In addition, web scraping is a relatively new data collection method in academia, and therefore the law is still evolving (Hillen, 2019). Therefore, researchers must take into account that it is always possible that current laws regarding web scraping will change and that they may need to seek professional legal advice before web scraping.

In addition to legal issues, researchers should also consider ethical constraints when collecting data online for academic purposes. As previous studies argue, legality does not necessarily mean that data usage is entirely ethical (Massimino, 2016). Using online data in research is relatively new in comparison to other data sources. Therefore, its current legality suggests a need for further research regarding the ethicality of web scraped data and the safety

of the web scraping practice. By the same token, although web scraping qualifies for Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)' review exemptions in most of the cases (Massimino, 2016), researchers need to be conscientious of any societal entities that may be impacted by web scraping. A common ethical concern regarding web scraping is related to the problem of sending too many requests to the host over a short span of time. A typical web scraper involves querying a website repeatedly. If overused, this practice can prevent others from accessing the website. A web scraper that is written for the purpose of collecting multiple online reviews or hotel prices sends requests to the web server that is hosting the site whenever it opens a new page. While the requests of a human user are usually within a manageable range, a web scraper that makes speedy and bulky automated requests can easily exceed the bandwidth threshold of the host and make the server unresponsive (Massimino, 2016). When the web scraper hits the server with frequent requests, a host may issue a warning or may respond with useless content if web scraping behavior is detected.

Therefore, we recommend inserting a random delay between individual requests, such as limiting requests to three per second (Massimino, 2016). For example, Landers et al. (2016) executed a 2-s delay between each web page request to avoid overburdening the host's server. In addition, scraping during off-peak hours can help reduce the load on the host and increase the speed of the scraping process. Finally, a good practice in web scraping is to carefully read the robots exclusion protocol (REP), which are standardized instructions on whether certain user agents can scrape parts of a website. Typically, this information can be found in the admin page of a website.

Summary

A growing number of customers not only obtain travel information online but also make transactions over the internet. Studies indicate that the internet (as opposed to the offline, voice, or travel agent distribution channels) has become the dominant distribution channel in terms of travel reservations (Park, 2009). Therefore, the importance of studying online customer behaviors cannot be overemphasized. However, there is a strong tendency among hospitality researchers to rely on traditional data collection methods, which are limited in terms of what research questions they can answer as well as the generalizability of their insights. Our work provides a simple method of scraping online reviews and price data using the Python language. As our goal is to make hospitality researchers more comfortable collecting online data, we focus on how the scraping process functions on major travel websites. Although not a comprehensive introduction into Python, we introduce the essential elements necessary to handle and scrape interactive

hospitality platforms such that they can augment readily available introductory Python resources.

Although web scraped data introduce incredible opportunities to hospitality researchers, there are important aspects that must be accounted for when scraping travel websites. As every platform has unique characteristics and purposes, each platform attracts different users, which in turn forms a different market. While ignoring these platform-specific aspects may induce biases in the researchers' analyses, properly making use of these challenges may make platform differences a unique natural experiment setting for exploring new opportunities. At the same time, embracing these differences is what provides for fruitful research. For instance, the social influence effect, which refers to the effect of previous reviews on future reviews, impacts most online review platforms due to the nature of being able to see previous reviewers' opinions. This effect induces potential biases that are not of concern in traditional survey research as there is no chance that survey participants will see other participants' opinions before answering the survey questions. Despite the possibility of inducing social influence bias, Askalidis et al. (2017) overcome this challenge by utilizing reviews written by retailer-prompted reviewers who were invited to contribute their opinions using a separate web page where there is a lesser chance of seeing previous opinions. Going further, they compare this group of reviews to the regular, organic reviews using the difference-in-difference method, and make use of the challenge to identify the social influence effect in the online communities. Another example of turning the challenge into opportunity is the study of Wang and Chaudhry (2018). Many online hotel review platforms allow managers to respond to customer reviews, which may influence future reviewers' opinions. While the managerial response could present a challenge for researchers who want to understand the unbiased opinions of the reviewers, Wang and Chaudhry (2018) identified the managerial response effect by comparing ratings from online review platforms where managerial responses are visible with ratings from platforms where managerial responses are not made visible.

Our article has significant implications for hospitality researchers who hope to better understand the online travel marketplace. We outline simple methods that enable hospitality researchers to collect incredibly useful secondary data that they could not have obtained by relying on traditional data collection methods alone. Although traditional data collection methods are still valuable and, in many cases, cannot be replaced by new methods, online customer behaviors are hardly replicable in offline research design. Even if the purpose of the research is to make a causal inference that can only be tested in a strict lab setting, confirming this effect in the real online marketplace adds value to the study in terms of external validity.

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Supplemental Material

Supplemental material for this article is available online.

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